

Mr Benn makes sweeping attack on EEC link

Britain would lose its status as a completely self-governing nation if it remained in the EEC, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday. In a letter to his constituents he made a root-and-branch condemnation of

British membership of the Community. His attack was so strong that some MPs considered he might be preparing to resign if the Cabinet accepts the renegotiation terms. But his criticism is likely to anger ministers.

'End of self-governing Britain'

By Geoffrey Smith
Political Staff

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday launched such an uncompromising attack against Britain's continued membership of the EEC that some Labour MPs were speculating that he might be preparing the ground for his resignation if a majority of the Cabinet recommend acceptance of the renegotiated terms.

always is", he went on, but there was no suggestion that the conference would be given the right of veto so far as he was concerned.

Paris summit communiqué, which was signed by the Prime Minister. "We must recognize," Mr Benn said, "that the European Community has now set itself the objective of developing a common foreign policy... form of common nationality expressed through a common passport, a directly elected assembly and an economic and monetary union which taken together would in effect make the United Kingdom into one province of a western European state."

Community law overrides British law." His fourth objection was that British membership "imposes duties and constraints upon British governments not deriving from the British Parliament; and thus in effect charging those duties and constraints not accountable to Parliament or to the British people who elect them."

300 killed in Pakistan earthquake

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, Dec 29
At least 300 people were killed in an earthquake which struck the high Karakoram range last night on Pakistan's frontier with China. It was officially reported here. Tonight bodies were still being dug out of the rubble. The death toll was feared that the death toll might rise beyond 1,000.

Mr Wilson rules out pay freeze next year

By Our Political Staff
A wage freeze in the coming year was categorically ruled out by the Prime Minister yesterday. Questioned on the BBC radio programme, *The World This Weekend*, he declared that unemployment rather than inflation would be the main enemy and 1975 would be a "very, very difficult year."

Butter deal angers W Germans

Bonn, Dec 29.—West German butter is being sold in Britain up to 60 per cent cheaper than at home at the expense of the German taxpayer, the Hamburg news magazine *Der Spiegel* said today.

Emergency is declared in Bangladesh

A state of emergency has been declared in Bangladesh and all constitutional rights, such as free speech and habeas corpus, have been suspended. The Government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has issued a statement claiming that it is threatened by internal disturbances, referring to "extremists and enemy agents".

Mr Callaghan leaves for Africa today

Mr Callaghan is flying from London today on the first leg of his African tour. The dominant question before the Foreign Secretary will be the possible settlement in the Rhodesia problem, on which he will seek the views of African leaders—possibly including Mr Ian Smith of Rhodesia and Mr Vorster of South Africa.

Investigation into CIA proposed

Investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency by an independent commission—on the lines of the Warren Commission which inquired into President Kennedy's assassination—is being considered by President Ford. With this report yesterday came the allegation that among Americans under CIA investigation to the past has been Justice William Douglas of the Supreme Court.

Rating proposal

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities says that the rating system is untenable and unacceptable. It evidence today to the Lawfield committee inquiring into the cost of local government, the association says that the whole adult population should contribute, and hints that there should be direct local taxes.

School-leaving call

Legislation to introduce a common date for school leavers on the last day before the spring holiday cannot be introduced into the next session of Parliament, Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday after the Assistant Masters' Association conference had passed a resolution calling for such a step.

Reforming hooligans

The Magistrates' Association has told the Home Office in a memorandum that even a week or two in custody might correct some young offenders.

The year of oil

New York, Dec 29. King Faisal of Saudi Arabia has been chosen "Man of the year for 1974" by *Time* magazine, which cited the monarch's role in quadrupling the price of oil and his power to raise or lower oil prices.—Reuter.

Warehouse blaze

Firemen fought a warehouse blaze at King George V Dock, London, for more than eight hours yesterday before bringing it under control. Two firemen were taken to hospital and others complained of fumes from burning nylon and acrylic fibres. Report and photograph, page 3.

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Four die in crash

Four people died and three were injured yesterday in a 10-car collision at Broadway, near Evesham, Worcestershire.



Competitors in the annual Thames Open Sea Angling Championship at Gravesend yesterday.

Freed Mr Stonehouse stays in hiding

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Dec 29.
The whereabouts of Air John Stonehouse remained a mystery tonight after his early-morning release from a detention centre in a Melbourne suburb.

IRA prisoners free 15 jail hostages

From Robert Fisk
Belfast
Fifteen prison officers held hostage by more than 100 Provisional IRA men in Portlaoise Prison in the Republic of Ireland were released last night after five hours of negotiations between Mr Patrick Kelly, the governor, and the two most senior IRA officers held there.

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HOME NEWS

Masters call for spring leaving date in schools, but minister rules out early action

By Tim Devlin Education Correspondent
It was too late to fit legislation for any change in the school-leaving date into the next parliamentary session, Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

time for this is limited in the current session of Parliament. It follows from this that there would not be any change to affect 1975. Mr Prentice remains opposed to any major changes in the reform which was carried out last year.

Ealing, said it would make unemployment much worse to lower the age. Mr Bruce Heather, Durham, said a common leaving date before the spring Bank holiday would encourage pupils who would have left at Easter to stay on and take some CSE examinations. It would also prevent those who had taken CSE from staying on aimlessly until the end of term.

Englishman shares chess lead at Hastings

From Harry Golombek Chess Correspondent Hastings
The lead at the end of round two in the premier chess tournament at Hastings yesterday was shared between Basman (USSR) and Beljarsky (USSR) with 14 points each, but they should be joined by the Swedish Grandmaster, Ulf Andersson, when he finishes his adjourned game against Stean from round one.



Botterill in play against Hort yesterday.

Farm workers' warning of industrial action leading to food shortage

By Our Labour Staff
Farm workers' leaders are planning a deputation to the Prime Minister to protest at the low level of agricultural wages, and to give warning of possible industrial action by farm workers which could lead to food shortages.

Coal 'the best prospect'

By Our Labour Staff
British energy needs in the next century will have to be met mainly by coal, not by offshore oil and gas, according to Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mine-workers.

North Sea oil technology interests scrap merchant

Mr David Nicol, chief merchant and owner of the German Grand Fleet, is watching with keen interest the technical revolution engineers are making in the North Sea. The new devices used by the oilmen to lift weights of up to 2,000 tons at sea could be used to lift the sunken fleet of three battleships and four light cruisers from the bed of Scapa Flow.

Blaze kills boy trapped in bedroom

A boy aged five died after being trapped in his blazing bedroom yesterday in Lindley Street, Newburgh, Northamptonshire. His parents and neighbours made several attempts to get into the bedroom, but were beaten back by flames.

Doorstep bomb injures man

A Birmingham man was injured as a parcel bomb exploded on his doorstep on Saturday night. Mrs Patricia C. said that no motive was known.

Trawler ban threat

Norwegian police say Norway may have to ban British trawlers from their ports at Christmas in future because of incidents caused by fishermen who have been drinking Pilsener beer.

Communists blame owners in press inquiry evidence

By a Staff Reporter
The Communist Party yesterday published evidence that it is submitting to the Royal Commission on the Press. The evidence dismisses the claim by some proprietors that they do not interfere in editorial matters.

Attempts to prolong IRA truce

Continued from page 1
Mr Seamus Loughran, a senior Sinn Féin representative in Belfast and a former internee, who took part in secret talks between IRA leaders and Protestant clergy, said yesterday that time was running out for the British Government.

The Queen 'entitled to make fullest use of grants'

From Our Correspondent King's Lynn
The £1,000 grant to the Queen from public funds to convert two cottages into one on her Sandringham estate was defended yesterday by Councillor Frank Cork, chairman of West Norfolk District Council housing committee.

Mr Benn 'seems to be straying from our policy'

Dr Dickson Mabon, Labour MP for Greenock and Port Glasgow and chairman of the new moderate Manifesto group of the Labour Party, complained last night that Mr Wedgwood Benn, in criticising Britain's EEC link, seemed to be straying from the Government's policy of trying to renegotiate the terms of membership.

Flu wave unlikely to be severe, expert says

By Diana Geddes
Although influenza is expected to increase this winter, medical experts say it is unlikely to be severe. Britain escapes an influenza epidemic only once in seven years, Dr Geoffrey Schild, director of the World Influenza Centre, London, said yesterday.

JP's want short jail terms for hooligans

By a Staff Reporter
Defence of the rights of the courts to punish without intervention from Government, and an argument for keeping young adult offenders in custody even if only for a short while, are contained in a memorandum sent to the Home Office by the Magistrates' Association.

Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast and recordings section including maps of the UK and Europe, and a table of weather data for various locations.

Advertisement for 'For yachtsmen, 1975 begins today.' featuring an image of a boat and the text 'The new season is only just over the horizon, and Yachting World's Boat Show Number tells you exactly what's coming up.' Includes the Yachting World logo and 'Out now 40p'.

Man saves wife from car fire

An injured man plucked his wife from her blazing car yesterday after a collision with another car near Sunderland airport. The driver of the second car was killed.

Boy swept away while fishing

A boy aged 14 was presumed drowned yesterday after he was swept from rocks on the Gower Peninsula, West Glamorgan, during the night.

Drink 'aids darts aim'

Mr Alan Evans, aged 25, the Welsh winner of the £750 first prize in the Watneys British Open Darts Championship in London yesterday credited his success to seven pints of lager which he drank before the final contest.

Weather forecast and recordings

Weather forecast and recordings section including maps of the UK and Europe, and a table of weather data for various locations.



Two firemen were taken to hospital yesterday after fighting a fire in a warehouse containing a thousand tons of nylon and acrylic fibre at Kinz course V, Dul, London (photograph above). About a hundred firemen, many wearing breathing apparatus, and 30 engines were called to the fire early yesterday (a staff reporter writes). It took more than eight hours to get the fire under control and the warehouse was extensively damaged. A senior fire officer said it would take several days to ensure the fire was completely out.

One of the firemen suffered the effects of fumes from burning fibre. Several others were advised to see their doctors after complaining of skin irritation, chest pains and nausea. The senior officer said acrylic fibre gave off hydrogen cyanide when burnt.

Whole population should take part in local financing, authorities say

pressures, a lack of balance in the respective taxation bases of central and local government, a relatively heavy and growing burden on local government by reason of its need to borrow at high rates of interest from its capital investments and a relatively heavy burden on the main urban areas.

Local government, arguing for a reasonable share of national revenues to assist in a larger share of the provided by the inhabitants as a whole for the public services as a whole. The association defends local government's record on staff increases, stating that the average annual increase of 4.9 per cent did not appear to be higher than the projected growth in services. One element in the growth of expenditure and staff had been the growth of specialization.

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Mr Callaghan leaving for Africa today to hear leaders' views on Rhodesia conference

By David Sparrow, Diplomatic Correspondent
Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, leaves London by special aircraft at noon today on an African tour that seems certain to be dominated by the Rhodesia question. He opens his talks with President Kaunda of Zambia tomorrow.

burning issue of his talks with African leaders. So far Mr Callaghan has displayed characteristic caution in approaching the Rhodesia question. He has vacillated the Africans make the running in the belief that, while Britain has moral responsibility, it is in the hope that a secure development will create the conditions for a solution. Now he wants to learn at first hand how they see the prospects of a constitutional conference.

ments have met the Portuguese. The talks are expected to be held in Portugal. Dr Savimbi, aged 39, who leads UNITA, has been the activist in bringing the three movements together, having signed non-aggression pacts with each of the other two rivals in the past few weeks. As yet, there has been no meeting between Dr Neto of MPLA and Mr Holden Roberto, the leader of the third movement, Frelimo, but Dr Savimbi dismissed the idea that this might be a stumbling block.

Ford decision soon on inquiry into CIA

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, Dec 29
President Ford is thinking of appointing an independent commission to investigate the Central Intelligence Agency. It would be modelled on the Warren Commission (of which Mr Ford was a member) which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

scribes in some detail an account given to it by a former CIA agent who reported on peace groups in New York in the early years of the Vietnam war. He said that it was a large-scale operation involving infiltration, telephone tapping, break-ins, a great variety of electronic gadgetry and "psychological profiles".

More MPs urge resignation of Mr Stonehouse

Continued from page 1

Mr Harry Gourlay, MP for Kirkcaldy and a former Labour Whip, said: "The deliberately deceitful actions of John Stonehouse are utterly reprehensible. They have brought discredit to politicians, the Labour Party and the House of Commons. His first action on being discovered in Australia should have been to send a telegram to the Prime Minister, resigning from Commons and the Privy Council."

Mafia suspected in series of 17 murder cases

From Our Correspondent, Rome, Dec 29
Six murders during the past three weeks in the Palermo area, bringing the total of recent killings ascribed to the Mafia to 17. All are unsolved.

Junta leaders in banishment told of charges

From Our Correspondent, Athens, Dec 29
Mr George Papadopoulos, the former Greek dictator, and his four partners, who are banished to the island of Kea, were formally notified today that they are accused of high treason and revolt.

Nato small arms criticized for being too heavy

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent
The current range of Nato rifles and small arms ammunition is criticized in the first edition of *Jane's Infantry Weapons 1975*, which is published today.

Research in Europe and the United States has ranged from relatively conventional solutions, like the American TRW low maintenance rifle, to engage in the future, infantry weapons should become more effective while costing no more and involving even less back-up support, he says.

Bangladesh suspends constitutional rights

From Michael Hurnsby, Delhi, Dec 29
President Mohammadullah of Bangladesh declared a state of emergency over the weekend and suspended all fundamental rights conferred by the constitution, such as free speech and habeas corpus. The proclamation was counter-signed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Prime Minister.

order and essential services. The authorities were further empowered by the President to arrest any person deemed likely to act in a manner prejudicial to national security or interest or to Bangladesh's relations with foreign powers.

For a year or more Bangladesh has been steadily moving towards one-party rule, with a controlled press and incarceration of political opponents of the Government. This weekend's measures simply set a formal seal on the extinction of Sheikh Mujib's over-ambitious experiment in democracy.

Leading article, page 9

Direct talks with Eritrea guerrillas proposed

Asmara, Dec 29.—Ethiopia's military leaders intend bringing peace to the troubled northern province of Eritrea by direct negotiation with leaders of the guerrilla movements fighting for the secession of the province, a member of the military Government said here today.

The meeting opened in Asmara, capital of Eritrea, yesterday after a week of tension in the wake of rebel hand grenade attacks on two bars, in which six people were killed.

Leading article, page 9

Butter Token Scheme ends on 31 December.

The Butter Token Scheme will end on 31 December 1974.

Tokens dated January 1975 and later, which have been issued to some people receiving a supplementary pension or allowance, will not be valid for use and should be destroyed.

Tokens dated December may be used until 31 January 1975. They continue to be worth 6p each until then.

Retailers should surrender all butter tokens for reimbursement by 31 March 1975, to the Token Surrender Unit, Poulton-le-Fylde, Blackpool FY6 8NW.

New ideas yield overflowing cider crop

By a West Country Correspondent
The current range of Nato rifles and small arms ammunition is criticized in the first edition of *Jane's Infantry Weapons 1975*, which is published today.

breaking their boughs under the weight of apples. There were virtually no damaging frosts in May; the sunny weather of August put a blush on the fruit and subsequent heavy rains caused them to swell to unusual sizes.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, December 30, 1949
The stream of productivity teams from various sections of British industry which has been flowing across the Atlantic this year to study American methods, under arrangements made by the American Council on Productivity, will be continued at an increased rate in the New Year.

90 winner

Weekly £50,000 Premium Bond prize, announced in 6p, was won by number 66518. The winner lives in the 25 £1,000 winners are:

OVERSEAS



Six of the men charged with looting in Darwin are escorted by the police to court.

Call to reduce Darwin population to 10,000

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Dec 29 Mr Gough Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, returning to Sydney after spending the night inspecting Darwin, said that the Government would spare no effort to rebuild the devastated city. He has called an emergency Cabinet meeting for tomorrow to discuss plans for the rehabilitation of the city, struck by a cyclone on Christmas Day, and of its residents. On Tuesday he will resume his European tour. In a broadcast from Darwin, he recalled the destruction caused by Japanese air raids during the Second World War. Arriving in Darwin yesterday had reminded him of his first visit to the city just after the Japanese attack, he said. "The people of Darwin are no better off now than they were after the bombing. I want to assure you that the Australian Government will spare no effort to rebuild the city, to restore it as a proper place to live and to work. I've pledged help for all those who had been 'stricken' by the disaster. Mr Whitlam went on: "It has been extraordinarily fortunate that the Natural Disaster Organisation is now in operation. It was established only nine weeks ago. Darwin is the first place where the organization has come into operation. Darwin's population must be reduced urgently from 43,000 to 10,000. That would be the maximum population

which the city can at present support. It will not be long before sufficient power is available to restore water and sewerage systems. Health hazards will then have been overcome. Major-General A. B. Stratton, the head of the Natural Disaster Organisation, urged the people of Darwin in a broadcast: "Trust me, stay with me, do not listen to rumours about disease, and the crisis will be over in a few days. He said that water supplies had been reconnected to most main city blocks and electric power was gradually being restored. Because of the sweltering heat many unidentified corpses had been buried. Two more bodies have been found—those of two sailors washed up in the harbour—increasing the official death toll to 47. A further 6,800 victims of the cyclone were flown out yesterday and 7,000 today. By tonight 17,500 had been evacuated. Dozens of commercial and military aircraft joined in a shuttle service. The police in Darwin have warned looters that they will be shot dead. More armed police have arrived in Darwin and are patrolling the streets. Fifteen people were charged before a Darwin court on looting charges. Two Aborigines were sentenced to 18 months' jail for looting. Several other men were said to have been arrested in a house stacked

with new goods. They all pleaded not guilty and the hearing was adjourned. Darwin, Dec 29—A sign planted in front of a pile of mangled wreckage that once had been a house read: "Heardbreak Hotel—no vacancies." General Stratton came close to tears as he tried to console the victims. His first stop was the shell of a house less than a mile from the badly damaged airport. Mr Sam Abu-Asi, a Syrian, who migrated to Australia 17 years ago, stood speechless beside what had been his home. Only one wall remained. His wife squatted in the remains of her kitchen. Holding his four-year-old son, Rami, Mr Abu-Asi, said: "I came here so long ago, I work 18 hours a day, seven days a week, to build a house and life for my family, now it is gone." Torrential rain fell for most of last night and women and children huddled for shelter in the shattered remains of the airport departure lounge waiting for flights. Church services for all denominations were held today. In St Mary's Roman Catholic cathedral a structure of reinforced concrete was being raised over the wreckage escaped the cyclone. Mr John O'Loughlin said: "It is a miracle that we are still alive." People attended the church services wearing their Sunday suits to put on a show of normality.

Mr Leonox Walker, a long-range weather forecaster, gave a warning of five more cyclones. He said that three cyclones would hit the central coast of Queensland on February 18, March 2 and April 7. Two other cyclones would strike Western Australia, near Windham, about 280 miles from Darwin, between January and March.—Reuter. A group of 43 weary, bedraggled Britons were flown into London yesterday after losing their possessions in the devastation of Darwin. They were employees of the Foreign Office at the government relay station in Darwin, accompanied by their wives and children. The 43 were flown out of the area by the RAF and then travelled from Singapore on board a British Airways VC10. They were met by Foreign Office staff. A special room was set aside for those who had lost their passports or had no money. Mrs Vivian Buffery, aged 28, from Luton, said of the disaster: "We just grabbed the children and ran to a neighbour's hut. As we were doing so all sorts of things were flying through the air. Washing machines, fridges and razor sharp pieces of metal were all over the place." They hid in a shed, praying. She told her two children Jean and Louise that "Father Christmas had arrived and had landed on the roof". They seemed to accept it.

In brief

Tearful eulogy to Jack Benny

Los Angeles, Dec 29.—Leading figures in the entertainment world today attended the funeral of Jack Benny, the comedian. One of his closest friends, George Burns, tried to give a eulogy but broke down sobbing. Bob Hope took over as Mr Burns was led away to his seat.

Troops tackle oil

Tokyo, Dec 29.—The Defence Agency today called in 700 troops to clean up the shore around Japan's Seto inland sea where a giant oil slick has cost the fishing industry nearly 64,000m yen (191m).

Israel quintuplets

Jerusalem, Dec 29.—Mrs Tova Medina, aged 31, who underwent hormone treatment after being childless for seven years, today gave birth to quintuplets. They are all in comparatively good health in incubators.

24 die in air trip

Guatemala City, Dec 29.—A private commercial Lockheed aircraft, carrying 21 American tourists and a crew of three burst into flames on taking off from the Mayan ruins of Tikal in northern Guatemala, killing everyone on board.

5,000ft death plunge

Mudgee, Australia, Dec 29.—Two skydivers plunged more than 5,000ft in their deaths today when their parachutes became tangled in a linked hands leap from a light aircraft.—Reuter.

Volcano descent halted

Scott Base, Antarctica, Dec 29.—A French, American and New Zealand effort to descend into the active volcanic crater, Mount Erebus, in Antarctica has been abandoned after it started to display potentially dangerous signs of activity.—Reuter.

Admiral Dr Kissinger

Washington, Dec 29.—For the second year in succession, Dr Henry Kissinger emerges as the man Americans most admire in a Gallup opinion poll published by the Washington Post. Former President Nixon gained seventh place.

Heath Caribbean tour

Mr Edward Heath will have talks with Mr Lynden Pindling, the Prime Minister of the Bahamas, and Mr Michael Manley, the Premier of Jamaica, during a visit to the Indies for which he leaves today.

US aviation body blamed over Paris airbus crash

By Arthur Reed Air Correspondent The DC10 Airbus was given a certificate of airworthiness by the United States Federal Aviation Administration without sufficiently stringent safety tests, according to a report made public in Washington over the weekend. A DC10 owned by Turkish Airlines crashed after taking off from Paris for London last March killing all 346 on board, including 175 Britons—the world's worst air disaster. A large part of the blame for the crash is now placed with the FAA by the report, which was drawn up internally in April by officials of the administration itself, but which remained secret until this weekend. It was then released attached to a second report on the DC10 by a House of Representatives special investigations sub-committee. The House committee alleged that the FAA put thousands of lives at risk needlessly and

unjustifiably by failing to deal properly for almost two years with a danger which had been shown up in the DC10 design. This was a reference to the rear cargo door which in the Paris disaster blew out under the pressure inside the aircraft hull. The force of the pressure released pushed the cabin floor down and this severed controls under the floor. In July, 1972, the cargo door of an American Airlines DC10 blew out over Windsor, Ontario, but on that occasion the crew were able to bring the aircraft down safely. The Congress investigators were unable to obtain a satisfactory answer as to why the door of the DC10 in the Paris crash had not been modified. About 160 DC10s are now in service with airlines, including one British operator, the independent Laker Airways, and the FAA reports comments that with the modifications which have been made, there is no doubt that the cargo door is safe.

Guarantees hold up peace talks in Cyprus

From Our Correspondent Nicosia, Dec 29 The Greek and Turkish Cypriot representatives had another meeting over the weekend, but they again failed to agree on a mutually acceptable basis for resuming their peace talks. An official announcement after the meeting said Mr Glafkos Clerides, president of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, and Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, continued to exchange views on a basis for beginning talks on the substance of the problem. After their last meeting on December 19 the two Cypriot leaders announced that they had reached agreement on "all points but one". According to informed sources, the remaining obstacle is over the form of international guarantees for the constitutional order likely to emerge from their deliberations. Meanwhile, Archbishop Makarios was reported to be greatly concerned over the continuing rift within the Cyprus church. This became apparent after the collapse of an attempt by Archbishop Seraphim, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and the Primate of Greece, to reconcile Archbishop Makarios and three 'unfrolicked' rebel bishops of the Cyprus church. Our Athens Correspondent writes: A Greek military manoeuvre was staged unexpectedly in the Aegean Sea yesterday in test Greek defences in case of attack—presumably by Turkey. It is understood that the alert involved the Greek islands in the eastern Aegean, which have been fortified against possible Turkish attack.

Al Fatah chief still intent on killing King Husain

From Paul Martin Beirut, Dec 29 Arab hopes for a reconciliation between King Husain and the Palestinian guerrillas have been dealt a serious blow on the threshold of the proposed combatants' talks in Cairo. The setback came in the form of a renewed assertion by Mr Salah Khalaf, the second in command of Al Fatah, that his group still intended to kill the King and overthrow his regime. Jordan has demanded as its price for burying the hatchet with the guerrillas an end to the four-year-old campaign waged against it. Earlier the guerrillas appeared to have taken a step in this direction by deciding at their central council meeting to end the Palestinian propaganda war against the Hashemite kingdom. Mr Khalaf, whose nom de guerre is Abu Iyad, personally led an unsuccessful attempt on the King's life while he was attending the Arab summit meeting in Rabat. The plot was

followed by Moroccan security forces after a tip-off from the Spanish police. Al Fatah is the biggest of the Palestinian groups and is headed by Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. However, Mr Khalaf has a considerable following, particularly among the terror-oriented members of Al Fatah. The planning of the Black September terrorist network has been attributed to him. "If anyone wants to give Husain a chance", Mr Khalaf said in an interview with the Jordan press group, "then let them do it. So far as I am concerned, the matter is settled and the question is clearcut. I am not giving the King a chance." Jordan had earlier criticized a statement by Mr Khalaf made at a press conference in Beirut, in which he claimed responsibility for the Rabat operation. According to Jordanian sources, this latest outburst against the King and his regime will increase the obstacles in the way of a normalization of relations between Jordan and the PLO.

Cairo ministers in Russia

Moscow, Dec 29.—Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, today met Dr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and Lieutenant-General Muhammad al-Gamassi, the War Minister. The discussions, which Western diplomats say may reflect a crucial stage in Soviet-Egyptian relations, took place in a "friendly atmosphere", according to Tass. The two ministers arrived here yesterday in response to an "urgent" invitation from Mr Brezhnev, according to political sources quoted in Cairo. Both sources said the visit is connected with Mr Brezhnev's announced visit to Cairo next month. There has been some diplomatic speculation, unconfirmed by official sources, that Russia has threatened to postpone or cancel that visit unless a substantial degree of agreement is reached beforehand mainly on Middle East peace moves and Soviet weapons shipments.—UPI.

Former Prime Minister expelled by Thailand

From Our Correspondent Bangkok, Dec 29 Tension in Bangkok has declined considerably with the expulsion of the former Prime Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn, who left on a special flight for Singapore today. The expulsion followed student demonstrations at Thammasat University protesting at the former military leader's return. An emergency Cabinet meeting on Friday ordered Field Marshal Thanom's detention to face possible charges concerning his actions during the bloody street demonstrations which ultimately brought down his military Government in

Rocket attack on South Vietnam city

Saigon, Dec 29.—Communist forces yesterday launched artillery and rocket attacks on the city of Tay Ninh, 50 miles north-west of Saigon, and on military base camps near the city. Reporting the attacks, the South Vietnamese command said the rockets and shells caused no casualties, but four Government soldiers were killed in fighting round a communications centre on Ba Den mountain. "During the past three weeks five district towns have been captured by the communists. Three of them were in Phuoc Long province, north of Saigon. The Government command said 80 mortar bombs last night hit a military position near the province's isolate capital, Phuoc Binh.—Reuter.

A town learns to live with its mice

Kalgoorlie, Dec 29.—Mice, driven from the plains of Western Australia, by huge hush-beds, have overrun the gold-fields town of Kalgoorlie. Police Constable Stewart Ainsworth said today that there was panic when the mice first began moving into town about three months ago. "I think we are fighting a losing battle. Residents are finding mice in their beds and even in their baths. I heard about one bloke who found a mouse in his beer. He just flicked it out and kept on drinking."—Reuter.

Soviet dissident to face trial in Lithuania

Moscow, Dec 29.—The Soviet authorities have flown Dr Sergei Kovalev, a dissident biologist, to Lithuania where he will apparently face trial on charges of disseminating unofficial publications, Academician Andrei Sakharov said today. Dr Kovalev was arrested on Friday in connection with investigations into an underground Lithuanian journal on Roman Catholic Church affairs. Meanwhile, Professor Alexander Voronel, a Soviet physicist, arrived in Israel today after a two-year struggle to emigrate from Russia.—Reuter.

Miss Morosi will join staff of Dr Cairns

From Our Correspondent Melbourne, Dec 29 Dr Jim Cairns, the acting Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer of Australia, announced today that Miss Juni Morosi would rejoin his staff as a private secretary. Dr Cairns said she would begin her duties as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made. Miss Morosi was first appointed to Dr Cairns' staff on December 2—but withdrew after a storm in Parliament end controversy in the press. Dr Cairns said today that allegations and innuendoes in the newspapers had made it impossible for her to continue with her work in his office, but she had now reconsidered her deci-

Miss Morosi will join staff of Dr Cairns

sion and wished to accept the post. He was satisfied she was qualified for a position as private secretary, and she would work in public relations with special reference to communications with industry, banking and consumers. Earlier it had been reported that Miss Morosi had been negotiating to join a commercial television station as a television reporter. This month a report was submitted by the New South Wales Corporate Affairs Commission to Sir Robert Askin, then Premier of that state, which said that in connection with investigations into the affairs of Miss Morosi with which Miss Cairns had been associated had shown that there were no grounds for any charges of impropriety against her.

Our Gracie: A little frail but still in good voice



Gracie Fields today: "I can still sing. I still have the voice."

"Our Gracie", says the young man at the reception desk, not flinching for an instant from using the legendary cliché, "is in room 733." On the seventh floor two maids, with the mixture of reverence and she's-a-good-sort affection that must have accompanied her all her life, are discussing what to do "her" room. Two middle-aged ladies, from the North, and a young photographer are coming out of the Maxwell suite at the Westbury Hotel, where Gracie Fields, 77 in the New Year, is spending her annual week in London. She is smaller than I expect her to be, rather well dressed in dark red trousers and matching patterned shirt, with glasses, with red rimmed, and gold slippers. She has aged in the tradition of the great indomitable English ladies, with a pug nose and soft white hair. She is a little frail, but her skin is extraordinarily unlined, a firm and friendly matron, who suddenly, astonishingly, does a jig and bursts into song. The famous voice is just the same, "something between a yodelling song and a Bach cantata" as a critic once somewhat unkindly but very aptly called it.

Gracie Fields did one straight play, when she was asked by Sir Gerald du Maurier to be his leading lady in S.O.S. She took the part of a girl who commits suicide in a wayside inn. "Everyone was scared stiff that it would make me leave music hall. But I don't want to go to the theatre every night and say the same words. When I do a concert I change all the songs around to keep fresh, so it's not like putting a penny in the slot, and jabber, jabber, jabber. At one time I could remember 360 different songs, and I would just start singing whatever I thought of next."

So she turned down straight parts, though she did consider at one point doing a one-woman play a producer sent her. "It was about this woman's life. I read it. Then I put it on tape. Then I did it as an Irish woman." She puts on a strong Irish voice. "Then I did it as a Scots woman." She switches her accent. "Then I did it as myself." She reverts to the characteristic mixture of North Country, standard English and American overtones. "Then I thought I can't do this unless I can pick it up and give it a bit of a giggle. There's a smile in the drabness of life and I want to find it in my lines."

There has always been talk of opera contracts, but "I'm just a bathroom opera singer," she says. "I think I've had a lot more fun. I just fool about. All that practising would have been a terrible chore. I never trained so I could never have attacked it professionally, only as part of a comic act, when I would be a charwoman, scrubbing the floor and singing something out of Verdi or Puccini." She does a few bars from Madame Butterfly. "But a lot of people think you're most moving when you sing opera," says Boris Alperovici, Gracie Fields' third husband, who patters about the siring room of the Maxwell suite, a smiling man who looks like a contented cat. Mr Alperovici is one of the reasons why they live in Capri, since he runs the restaurant and swimming pool she had always planned to have, and insisted, when they married in 1952, on a quiet time. It cannot be all that quiet however, since Gracie Fields is recognized queen of Capri, and tour operators make special journeys to point out her house.

And though the days when people mobbed her in the streets are over, it is not all that quiet anywhere. She was called up to the stage at the Danny La Rue show in London last week, and given a standing ovation. She has also just made a record "Sing along with Gracie." It has a impact just like it used to at the old Palladium. "She is overplanning two more. I'm trying to work out my life story on two records taking the songs that meant something to me, and talking in between."

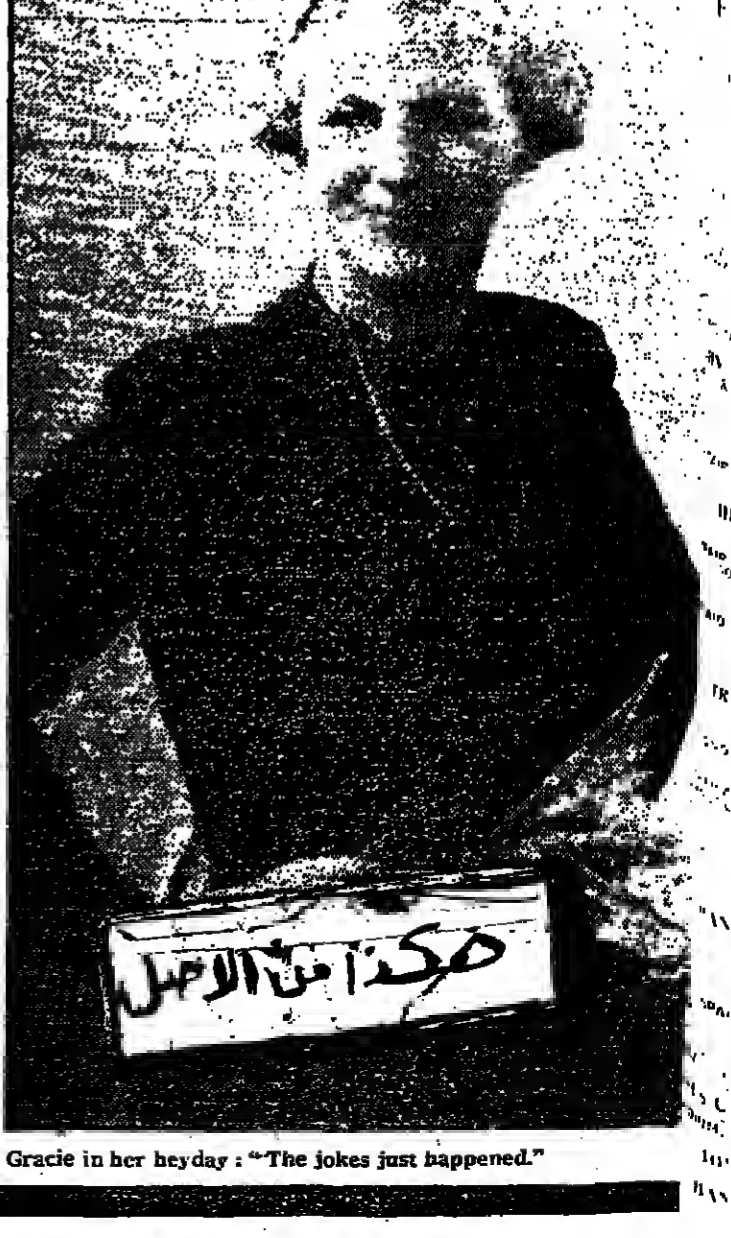
And she adds, somewhat wistfully, that she would not at all mind doing a television film of Paul Gallico's Mrs Harris goes to Paris. Nor has the "grande dame of the English pop song" as Colin MacInnes has called her, the warm-hearted good sort who received 100,000 letters when she was ill in hospital in 1953, quite given up her public life. "I still get a lot of letters, but I'm just not going to answer them all any more. Now it will just have to be Christmas cards." I asked her how many she had sent. "Well, I did well over 1,500 myself," she says. "And I think that's going to be my lot."

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Caroline Moorehead



Gracie in her heyday: "The jokes just happened."

SPORT

Booket

vid Lloyd vainly attempts to catch Redpath off a ball bowled by Willis.

England at last hit a purple patch

John Woodcock

Abourne, Dec 29

England came back from the dead yesterday, for the time being at any rate. With a pair of bowlers—Hendrick is out of the side with a pulled hamstring—yours truly dismissed Australia in the Test match on 241. When a light started England from a difficult position, it was not long before they were two runs and with all their second innings bats standing.

Connors in too much of a hurry

Melbourne, Dec 29—Connors and Newcombe today moved a step closer towards the final of the \$70,000 (\$28,000) Australian Open at Kooyong in Melbourne.

Connors reached the quarter-final round after beating Reid, from South Carolina, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2. Reid is the only player so far in the tournament to have taken a set from Connors. Connors said after the game that he had played good tennis but had tried to hurry too much in the first set. "I think I tried to rush too much. I thought it wouldn't matter and that all I'd have to do was hit the ball and serve. I made a few mistakes and didn't take much time serving."

Tennis

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Even the referee could not save this match

By Norman Fox

Only one person on the field at Goodison Park on Saturday had the remotest feeling for entertainment and he was the referee. Even the referee could not save this match.

Football

Comfort in a wooden spoon race

By Norman Fox

On a day of ill winds, it was the ailing who benefited most on Saturday when Luton Town completed their third win of Christmas by beating Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-0 at Kenilworth.

goals in both of these matches, but the remaining third and fourth division clubs could find this season to be one of great opportunity. The fear of home defeat and caution away from home, coupled with failure to score good goals for months, has meant that the first division clubs' chances of a "one off" nature of cup ties could find them struggling.



Luton's Futcher twins, Paul (left) and Ron.

An old favourite finds a new lease of life

By Tom German

Shedding an unblemished home record which has endured for half a season is one thing; being deprived of it by an old domestic foe is another matter. Derby County were not in haste to produce them in any event. Manchester were punting quickly and effectively. In a side which kept the ball high, Gemmill and Riob were impressively active swimming the side, but it was quite a surprise when it turned their way after 21 minutes. Lee, who had run ahead of the ball, doubled in his tracks to nudge the ball away from an opponent in Newton, who was not a fine rising shot past Corrigan.

Viswanath keeps India's hopes alive

Calcutta, Dec 29—Engineer and Viswanath kept India's hopes of winning the third Test alive with a fighting innings against the West Indies at Eden Gardens here today.

At the close of the third day, with the rest day to come tomorrow, India were 206 for six in their second innings—a lead of 199—and an exciting prospect as the West Indies pressed to a 3-2-0 up in the series.

Specialist for Lewis

Melbourne, Dec 29—Richard Williams, a specialist in tennis, is to be sent home on Monday. He has been suffering from a severe cold and has been a specialist in Britain—UPI.

Davis cup team

Melbourne, Dec 29—The Australian tennis selectors tonight announced a four-man team to play Japan in the Davis Cup semi-final in Adelaide, on January 10, 11 and 12. They are J. Newcombe, J. Edgar, P. F. Littlewood and R. Case. Agency France Presse.

Cup for Smith

Paris, Dec 29—Jonathan Smith, of Britain, won the Byrnes Cup, an annual trophy for the best player in the second division of the French League, 7-5, 6-2, 7-5. Agency France Presse.

Hockey

Spectator's hooter sounds Hampshire death knell

By Sydney Friskin

As the first half drew to its close Hampshire, realizing that they were not getting anywhere, removed from the forward line and Hicks took up a position in the back division, leaving Furdy and Smith to operate in the middle, with Lall pushed up.

Yachting

Principal sponsors to cut their budget by half

By John Nicholls

Alfred Dunhill Ltd, the principal sponsor of yachting in Britain for the past few years, has announced that their activities will be reduced next season. A spokesman for the firm said that Dunhill, in common with sponsors in other sports, have had to reduce their costs and that their yachting budget has therefore been cut by about half.

Creeping despondency

By Tom Freeman

After their 3-0 defeat of Queen's Park Rangers at Stamford Bridge on Saturday Chelsea supporters must be ruminating the creeping despondency for with Luton Town, the bottom club seemingly beat on a miraculous revival, the team's position in the first division could be improved.

Better to bet on losers

By Norman de Mesquita

There was only one thing wrong with Saturday's entertaining game at the Victoria Ground: the result. West Ham United with four regulars missing and with Alan Taylor having to leave the field with a knee injury after 20 minutes, looked by far the better side until a fortuitous penalty 20 minutes from the end gave Stoke a five-minute lead.

Weekend results and tables

Table with columns for First division, Second division, and Third division, listing teams and scores.

European matches

Table listing European football matches between various clubs from different countries.

Scottish first division

Table listing Scottish football league results for the first division.

Scottish second division

Table listing Scottish football league results for the second division.

Ondine takes line honours in Sydney-Hobart race

Hobart, Dec 30—The 79-foot American ketch Ondine II took line honours early today in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

The aluminium-hulled yacht, skippered and owned by Mr. Hugo Long, covered the 330-nautical-mile course in three days, 13 hours, 51 minutes and 56 seconds.

Leading goalscorers

Table listing top goalscorers in various football leagues.

Today's fixtures

Table listing football fixtures for the day, including league matches and cup games.

SPORT Rugby Union



Carr (left) showed his power on the wing and Dixon his well-being

An honest and rugged occasion haunted by two mysteries

By Peter West Rugby Correspondent

There were two mysteries at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday when Gosforth beat Northampton in the first round of the knock-out competition by a penalty goal and a try (41-10)...

A replayed Northampton stormed back to produce a cliff-hanger of a climax. There were 12 minutes left when Wright, on stand-off half, produced the finest move of an honest and rugged encounter...

An ill wind that blew nobody any good

By Michael Hardy

Although Richmond gained the honour of going through to the second round of the club knockout competition by beating Streatham-Croydon on Saturday, the only real winner at Thornton Road was the wind...

Lampkowski looks exciting prospect

By Tom Cooban Leicester 3

Headingley's ground at Kirkstall was in its 25th year on Saturday, but they still played adventurously and beat Leicester by a goal, two penalties goals and three tries (17-10)...

For the record

Rugby League St Helens take lead to nine points Yesterday's first division match at Whitehouse...

Squash racks up

CONVENTRY: In their challenge, the three teams from Coventry, Warwick and Warwickshire...

Boxing

SEoul, WBA bantamweight title bout: Hong Soon-hwan (Korea) retained his title by defeating Carlos Garcia (Philippines) on points...

Only Ripley remains true to his talents

By Richard Streeton

A bevy of England rugby selectors, looking for additions, replacement players and general first weekend's business...

The best intentioned of actions on the field mostly tended to be spoiled by the fact that Ripley, for Rosslyn Park, was alone in remaining consistently true to his talents...

There was however a good climax, with Rosslyn Park scoring the decisive try in the third minute. Perhaps the best of two goals and two tries (20 pts) and a try (10 pts)...

Let me finish with honourable mentions for two of Northampton's ranks. Page, into or with the wind, kicked with characteristic skill and accuracy...

Second round draw

The draw for the second round of the knockout competition will be made in London this evening...

Llanelli win match but lose shirts

The Llanelli team were ordered to change their shirts after a muddy condition in the home match with Bristol...

Lancrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Halifax 19, Dewsbury 12, Bradford 10, Leeds 8, Wakefield 7, Huddersfield 6, Bradford Bulls 5, Bradford Thunder 4, Bradford Bees 3, Bradford Bulls 2, Bradford Thunder 1, Bradford Bees 0...

Tennis

HONG KONG: Eastern Province tennis tournament at Victoria Park...

Cricket

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand cricket team's tour of the South Islands...

Hockey

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Spain 3, Netherlands 10 (Toronto)...

Time to rethink Cheltenham ideas

By Michael Phillips Racing Correspondent

The last week of 1974 has certainly been an exciting one for racing fans...

The most popular bet was to back Captain Christy with Hills at 8-4 to win the Gold Cup...

On the other hand, Ladbroke's arcaded towards a new course for the Champion Hurdle...

Miller Boy should help Oaksey to consolidate lead

By Jim Snow

There is a quality look about racing in the north this week with two days at Ayr on Thursday and Friday...

Leicester programme

12.30 FITCHLEY HURDLE (Novice: Div I: £204: 3m) 0000 Young and Bright (Mrs J. Gilday), Mr Oliver, 5-11-10...

Fontwell Park programme

12.45 LITTLEHAMPTON STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £423: 2m) 0000 Dandale (CJ) (J. Hills), G. Harwood, 8-13-10...

Fontwell Park selections

12.45 INDIAN COTTAGE is specially recommended. 1.15 Scottish Cavalier. 1.45 Matala. 2.15 Muckden Rock. 2.45 Persian Camp. 3.15 Tudor Jewel.

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12.30 Forest King. 1.00 Happy Call. 1.30 O Mandado. 2.00 Fozzyot. 2.30 Shifting Gold. 3.00 Miller Boy.

Newbury results

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Gay Kindersley: surprised by success of British Smelter.

British Smelter started at 33-1 but paid 80-1 on the Tote, prices that were acceptable enough to the casual racegoer...

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Skating

Miss Nadig shows best form in giant slalom. Many competitors said the well-tended piste was much better than during their practice runs...

Snow reports from European resorts

Depth (cm) U Piste Piste (ft) Wind (mph) C. Andermatt 80 130 Fair Varied Fine -3. Garmisch 50 230 Fair Varied Fine -3. Kranz 30 150 Good Heavy Fine 0. St. Moritz 150 250 Good Heavy Fine 1. Klosters 70 220 Good Powder Ratn 4. Murren 80 220 Poor Heavy Ratn 2. Val d'Isère 160 250 Good Heavy Fine 1. Excellent skiing conditions. SCOTLAND: Cairngorm: Main runs: some complete, others broken. Snow on a firm base. Lower slopes to snow. Vertical runs: 300ft. Access roads clear. Snow level: 2,500ft. Glencoe: Main runs: all complete, new snow drifting. Lower slopes: limited. Vertical runs: 1,500ft. Access roads: slight snow. Snow level: 2,500ft.

Hurdles in the way of the Government's quick dash to a June referendum on the EEC

The Government has now terminated the main part of its referendum strategy. It is to be a short dash, not long at all. Just before Parliament meets for the Christmas recess, a meeting of a group of ministers, attended by Mr Wilson, Mr Callaghan, Mr Short and Mr Roy Jenkins, as well as a number of officials, settled the target date. If all goes well, it is to be held at the end of June, or possibly the first week in July. This means that the Bill must be ready to present to Parliament by the end of March and instructions have gone out to Cabinet Office officials to make the necessary preparations.

There are a number of reasons for this decision on timing, and some important consequences flow from it. The most obvious reason is that so long as it remains uncertain whether Britain is to be in or out of the EEC the Government is inhibited in its attempts to cope with the economic problems that loom. The only danger the question absorbs one and diverts energy, it also makes it inevitable that every effort at cooperation with our European partners is seen in the context of renegotiation. Once the matter is decided, one way or the other, at least everyone will know where he is. Secondly, the shorter the time that elapses between the

end of renegotiation and the referendum itself the greater the chances of the terms being accepted. It is now generally assumed that this is what most ministers want and one can detect a growing optimism that they will get their way. But it is feared that if there is a long interval after negotiating the terms before they are put to the vote then everything that goes wrong in the meantime, large or small, could sour the public mood.

However, the sooner the referendum is out of the way the less risk there is of the Labour Party tearing itself to pieces over it. If it is held over until the autumn it would get enmeshed in the party conference season. It would have to be held in October at the latest to satisfy the pledge that the British people would be given the chance to decide the issue within a year of the general election. That means that if it is not conducted in the summer there would have to be a special assembly on this issue—a full-scale Labour Party conference just before or just after it. That would be enough to make the staunchest party manager quake.

Yet the choice of a quick dash to referendum sets a pretty demanding timetable. The whole strategy could collapse if one of two things happened.

The first is that renegotiation could drag on longer than ministers now expect. Some of them are saying that it is already clear what the ultimate terms will be. But one lesson to be drawn from the Community's history is that one should never underestimate its capacity to spin out the approach to a decision, no matter how clearly perceived. Ministers would want the negotiations in Brussels to be virtually completed, even if one or two loose ends had still to be tied up, before presenting a Bill to Parliament because it is thought that both Houses might be reluctant to pass legislation for

a referendum without knowing precisely what package was to be presented to the electorate. The second threat to the timetable is that in any case the Bill might get bogged down in Parliament. Three weeks to a month is considered the necessary time that must elapse between the Bill receiving the Royal Assent and the holding of the referendum. Even if all goes according to plan, therefore, the campaign will be a short one, though no shorter than is now regarded as acceptable for general elections. But to involve even this minimum period the Bill must reach the statute book by the first week of June at the latest. Allowing for the Easter and Whitnass recesses, that is a tight but not an impossible schedule. What it does mean is that the Government will have to produce as short and simple a piece of legislation as possible.

But there are a number of points on which there is bound to be contention and scope for amendment. First, there is the precise form of the question to be put to the electorate. Strictly speaking, this does not have to be part of the legislation. But the feeling now seems to be that Parliament would not be content to leave this to a subsequent administrative order. Some ministers have been attracted by the idea of phrasing the question in such a way that one would vote "No" in order to stay in the EEC—on the assumption that most people instinctively prefer to vote "No" at a referendum because that implies preserving the status quo. No decision has yet been taken on this, but opinion within the Government may now be moving against it on the grounds that it would seem too clever by half.

There will certainly be disputes as to how the votes should be counted. Again no decision has yet been taken, but the chances are increasing that this will be done on a United Kingdom basis. There are some administrative difficulties over this and the

Lord Chalfont Is one innocent victim more deserving than another?

On January 30, 1972, Patrick Joseph Doherty was killed in the Rosville Flats area of Londonderry, when the Army moved against a rioting crowd after an illegal march. Moved by a spirit of good will and conciliation, the Government has now decided to pay his family £16,575. If his widow invests this money with even elementary prudence, she will be assured of an income of £40 a week for the rest of her life, and for the lives of her children after her. Of course, as Mrs Doherty has said, this cannot compensate her for the loss of her husband. The value of a human life cannot be measured in this way.

So, indeed, so let us spare a thought for another casualty of the Irish madness. In April, 1972, a few months after the death of Mr Doherty, and less than a mile away from the Rosville Flats, a corporal of the Royal Welch Fusiliers was shot dead by an IRA sniper. His widow receives a pension of £31.54 a week. It will be so long as she lives, but when her only son reaches working age, and it will disappear altogether if she should marry again.

You may be forgiven for thinking that somebody, somewhere, has got his priorities wrong, and is in a position to feel sorry for many soldiers who are now convinced of something which they have quietly suspected for a long time—namely, that their political masters have a somewhat eccentric system of values. Quite apart from the specific case of Mrs Doherty and the corporal's widow, the decision to offer money to the victims of the Londonderry riots has wider implications. The Ministry of Defence may pontificate as it pleases about the Army being "under no legal liability in respect of the deaths of the 13 deceased the fact remains that many people it will seem that there is a tacit admission that the soldiers of the Parachute Regiment were in the wrong. This is something which will be seized on and exploited by those who have been waging war on the British Government and people. Already it is possible to discern a facile tendency—not only in the press and on radio and television, but in the rent-a-politician industry as well—to use the canny expression "Bloody Sunday" to describe the Londonderry riots and their tragic consequences. This must give a great deal of satisfaction to the long-forgetting heroine of those days, Miss Bernadette Devlin, who took part in the Londonderry demonstration and later described the event, with predictable irrelevance, as "our Sharpeville". Mr John Hume, a Stormont MP, referred to it as "cold-blooded mass murder and a gross violation of the Geneva Convention of opening fire indiscriminately on the civilian population".

Just in case anybody should be misled by the Government's latest gesture into believing that any of this contained a grain of truth, it might be as well to recall some of the salient findings of the official Tribunal of Inquiry—subsequently accepted by the Government of the day. Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice of England, concluded that "there would have been no deaths in Londonderry on January 30 if those who organized the illegal march had not there by crossed a highly dangerous situation in which so many soldiers have deep down inside themselves. The situation is too serious, has gone too far, for the Tory Party to go on devising policies solely designed to please.

The next leader must reawaken confidence. He must give the electors hope that he can reestablish order and prosperity. He would find his conscience clear and his mind at peace if he took this road. He would have to be able to apologise and expeditiously wishful thinking and unreality. His appeal would be founded on the true needs of the nation, as well as the wishes of Conservatives. He would be in a position to give that inspired leadership for which we all crave.

Geoffrey Smith

The growing conflict in Israel's corridors of learning

When the head of a major university in any country resigns after pressure from colleagues over his political attitudes, questions arise that go beyond passing civility. In the case of an academic feud that occurs in the corridors of learning.

If the country is Israel, the individual one of the world's most brilliant physicists and mathematicians like Professor Yuval Ne'eman; and his critics eminent fellow scientists—the circumstances have added significance. Although the affair has not been formally settled, Israeli academics are discussing the related issues over the dinner table in the way academics anywhere in the world—or certainly in Europe and the United States—compare views on open secrets. Here, at the time of discussing the matter as part of their wider studies—not just about the future of science and research—but about the need for a Middle East peace settlement. Some of their ideas for making peace with Arab neighbours do not coincide with the views of politicians, yet there is a similarity with opinions of some mature student movements in universities.

The Israeli scientific community is one of the elite groups of the community. Over the past 20 years it has been nurtured and pampered to create, as the founders of Israel saw it, a vital resource for the solution of the national problems. The science and technology of the country, ordinary success in agriculture, production in the fertile Mediterranean plain and in the programme for the "greening" of the desert, the development of a small but formidable nuclear potential, and more recently the expansion into marine and ocean technology are some of the dividends of that policy.

Israel has been spending over 2.4 per cent of its gross national product on research and development, and shares a top position with the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union in the proportion of resources allocated in this way. Last year over 7000 went into the science budget. Half was distributed between the country's seven prestige universities and research institutions. As a separate programme, spending on weapons research and development absorbed the other half. This year the civil research and development budget is being cut by 10 to 20 per cent at various universities.

On the other side, defence research spending has increased. The President of Israel, Professor Ephraim Katzir, remarked earlier this month "if there were more money available, we would increase defence research".

It was a statement that mirrors the conflict emerging



Professor Yuval Ne'eman: "A very aggressive view of the world as many hitherto spiritual and conservative scientists and student groups begin to find their voice. One student put it this way: 'We have housing shortages in our cities, transport and pollution problems like other countries, and a lot of underprivileged families and children. These should take priority in government. No sound reason exists for annexing the million Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Maybe there are security arguments for keeping the Golan Heights and the Sinai as a buffer which could be made without infringing other human rights. Most of Sinai is an empty wilderness.' This reflects the view of the privileged student who belongs to what is probably the first generation of indigenous Israelis to come of age. He has done his service in the armed forces and returns every year for a month in the reserves. At the university he is on the rota with every one else for security at the main gate or at entrances to all buildings. Yet he is out of sympathy with the generation that created the state in which he lives.

The roots of the growing conflict between the more senior scientists and politicians are different. Indeed, it seems to be a recurrence of events in the 1920s.

Immigrant scientists and scholars of high standing went with the desire to establish a Jewish spiritual centre in Palestine. The scientists and politicians are different. Indeed, it seems to be a recurrence of events in the 1920s.

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It is ironic that an economic crisis was necessary to throw this old split back into focus. Nevertheless the opinion from the academic community could carry more weight this time simply because it is many times larger. Relationships with the military establishments have been cordial while the two groups have pursued their own goals and their shared goals without a clash. Universities and research institutes have been relatively independent. They are helped enormously by financial and cooperative research with Europe and the United States. The bulk of research activity is paid for by extra-mural links and contributions from overseas. The government allocation covers the overheads of teaching and research.

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Why the Tories must break out of a make-believe world

There are alternative diagnoses and prescriptions for the ills afflicting the Tory Party, to those which Ian Gilmour put forward in *The Times* last month.

It is not clear why he thinks that "the October defeat was largely inevitable". Labour fought on an extremist left wing policy, which most electors found distasteful, yet we could not harness their discontent to our cause. Since the Conservative cult of occupying "the middle ground", which reached its shrill crescendo in October's theme of a government of national unity, has proved an ineffective counter to Labour's extremism, we must look for more fundamental reasons for our failure. Our bid to take over the Liberals in October failed, as would Peter Walker's suggestion of taking Labour votes by advocating Labour policies. Both strategems smack of a lack of principle, of seeking power at any price. They make the party seem opportunistic; the electors do not know what we stand for.

The Tory Party should be the party of the market economy, of freedom of choice, of private enterprise and ownership, and of a confident, ordered society. There are millions who share these objectives. They are not egalitarian. They want freedom to prosper without government interference. They want to earn, to save and to pass on something to their children—be it money or a good education. They do not want their government to be pushed around, by strikers, trade union leaders, left students, terrorists, or Brussels bureaucrats. Above all they fear the gathering economic storm. They are now not just worried for their own future, but for the future of society itself.

It is a measure of the failure of the Tory leadership that it could convince these millions neither of its commitment to Tory principles, nor of its ability to avert economic disaster. Convinced, it will by its enthusiasm muster the sort of anti-socialist vote behind us. Unconvinced, that vote breaks up into Liberal, or nationalist support, or simply abstention. The most pointed lesson of all is that the SNP gained its seats at our expense, not at the expense of Labour.

How then can the Tory Party convince its erstwhile supporters that it will restore stability, order and prosperity?

People do not want their government to be pushed around by anyone...

Foremost, it must abandon the make-believe world in which it has recently taken refuge. Sanctions are not a serious anti-socialist strategy and Protestant-bashing are not defeating the IRA but encouraging them. The EEC is but a harmless free trade area and not a panacea for all our ills. Our economic plight is desperate, mainly through our own fault. Inflation is not caused by trade unions or oil shocks, but by government over-spending. It is not "controlled" by prices and incomes controls, which merely damage industry and investment.

The reality is that we are living well beyond our means. We are enabled to do so by governments "printing" too much money. Thus we import far more than we export in order to satisfy our private purchasing power. To finance this we have to borrow abroad on a huge scale—our overseas debt might total \$100 billion by 1978—it cannot go on like this.

Rigorous price controls, and a violent credit squeeze last December, have brought private enterprise to the verge of bankruptcy, and investment almost to a halt, while consumption continues to rise, resulting in our consuming half of our capital stock.

The only convincing policy to deal with this involves using the one weapon that can work: phasing out the deficit caused by government over-spending, over a period of perhaps three or four years. To say, as Ian Gilmour does, "that every known weapon must be used" against inflation is like going into battle in a Centurion tank and then throwing one's boomerang at the enemy. There is no painless way, and we should stop muddling the issue by suggesting there is any alternative.

Phasing out the domestic deficit—now running at £6,300m per annum—requires the ending

Nicholas Ridley

The former Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewksbury @ Times Newspapers Ltd, 1974

The Times Diary

A seasonal gift to Fleet Street

John Stonehouse was a Christmas gift to the popular newspapers, providing an exciting holiday read in place of the customary round-up of Christmas births, snow showers on hillsides and road deaths. With two non-publishing days to work on the story, the papers seized on the missing MP's timely reappearance with an enthusiasm reserved for such rare opportunities. The *Daily Mail* on Friday credited 21 reporters and four photographers for the coverage, which filled three pages. The *Mail's* credit list excited the envy of other news desks along Fleet Street. "They had 17 people credited on the home end alone," said the *Mirror's* news editor. "I would be happy if I could have counted 17 people working all told." At the *Mail*, though, they explained modestly that some of the 21 might have made only a minimal contribution—a phone call or two—but we thought that as they had had their Christmas interferred with, the least we

could do was put their names in the paper."

The *Mail* sent a reporter and a photographer to Melbourne (economy class return fare: £513.10 each). They also engaged a Hongkong-based freelance to supplement the Australian coverage. The *Express*, who credited 10 journalists with the four pages of coverage they gave the story on Friday and Saturday, also sent one reporter and one photographer to Australia. Alastair Burnet, was "not keen to talk about the resources devoted to the story" yesterday.

The *Express* is said to have bought up Barbara Stonehouse at a fee which Fleet Street rumour puts at anything from £2,000 to £50,000. It is also generally supposed that they paid for Mrs Stonehouse's flight to Australia.

The *Mirror* (a dozen in the credits for four pages on Friday and more than two on Saturday) already had a photographer in Melbourne for the cricket, but they also sent out a reporter

"who has been waiting for Stonehouse patiently for 11 months" and had one of their New York staff go down to Miami.

Their exclusive interview with Stonehouse's secretary on Saturday, they confided after consultation, "did not cost a penny."

"The only way those who have not moved before can catch up is to buy up the first person they can at some exorbitant price," boasted the news editor. "Our piece on Saturday was intended to point out that one paper, at least, had bought up the wrong woman."

The *Sun*, which gave Stonehouse 3½ pages on Friday and two on Saturday, estimated that they had five people a day active on the story in Britain, but "because of our Australian connections we did not have to send to Australia". Without an exact count the deputy editor thought the *Daily Mail's* Friday credits possibly exceeded. The *Sun's* total reporting staff.

The *Daily Telegraph* sent their man from Singapore to Melbourne (and had previously had their New York man in Miami). They devoted 1½ pages to Stonehouse on Friday and seven columns on Saturday.

Serious papers do not take this sort of story so seriously. The *Guardian* did not even make Stonehouse their lead on Friday and gave him less than a page.

The *Financial Times* awarded him about half a page. The *Times* news desk says the story has been covered by "one reporter with the assistance of some others as required". Our foreign news desk reports proudly that "we have not moved one man one yard on account of Stonehouse". The *Times* has permanent correspondents in Melbourne and Copenhagen.

The *Sunday Times*, who dig busily into this sort of misadventure, managed to credit 12 reporters yesterday, but they did it only by including a secretary in the New York office and cricket writer Robin Marlar, the former Sussex cricketer captain. Marlar must have had a busy Christmas, as he reported elsewhere that he was bowling to Edric and Cowdrey in the nets at Melbourne on Christmas Day.

Feverish

While on the subject of newspaper idiosyncrasies, I was glad to welcome yesterday morning a familiar friend, the annual flu scare. Usually it appears in the middle of December but this year, no doubt because of the surfeit of genuine misery over the past few weeks, it has been delayed.

It was *The Observer* which broke the news to me yesterday. "EUROFLU" COULD HIT BRITAIN, said the front page headline (note the careful "could"). Medical experts were quoted as saying that the "flu epidemic" rages in Italy and Hungary "might" (that caution again) spread to Britain.

The only difference from similar reports in previous years is that it has been conventional for recent threats of epidemics to come from Hong Kong or other parts of Asia. That this one is said to come

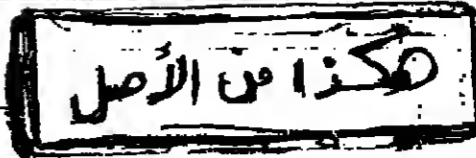
I have received notice of a conference to be held in the New Year called: "The need for a new approach to motivation for 1975." Operating in its own principles, the first question on the fact sheet is "Why is the fee lower than that usually charged for conferences?" Moreover, the literature sent me gives no indication of what the fee actually is.

Martin Gosch, a film producer who died in 1973. But Little, Brown, the new book, says from the claim they originally made that it was taken from tapes. It is now conceded that there are no tapes, and that much of the book was written by Richard Hammer, a freelance writer.

Further doubts about the book's authenticity were sparked by William Safire, a columnist, who traced the book to Luciano in 1954. In the interview, Luciano strongly denied an anecdote about how he had escaped death in 1929, and had thus been nicknamed "Lucky". He said the nickname was simply a corruption of his surname. Yet in the book the 1929 incident is given.

Little, Brown are, however, sticking to their publication, and they are being backed by the Book-of-the-Month Club, which has selected it for February. "The club reaffirms its faith in Little, Brown," it announced. The publishers are not being talkative about the book, though. Their claims have been watered down to: "This book contains the only disclosure that Luciano made of the events that shaped his life." Perhaps it will sell anyway.

PHS



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MR CALLAGHAN'S TASK IN AFRICA

Mr Callaghan arrives to Lusaka tomorrow on the first and presumably most important stage of his ten-day African tour. Planned before the meetings between white Rhodesian officials and black Rhodesian nationalist leaders in that capital, it now has taken on greater significance. It is no longer the goodwill and fence-mending trip originally envisaged. Mr Callaghan will probably be asked in all the six African capitals he is to visit what Britain can do, first to expedite and encourage a satisfactory outcome from the proposed constitutional conference between black and white leaders in Rhodesia, and second, what Britain will do to increase the squeeze on the Smith regime in the event of failure at the first try. To answer that the trip is merely to have general discussions will now hardly satisfy the African leaders. They will hope for something more positive.

Since the Pearce commission report, the British line has been that Britain can do no more until a settlement acceptable to all parties has been worked out in Rhodesia. The events (which of course flow from the Portuguese revolution last April) that appear to break the deadlock and bring compromises nearer have not altered this view. British ministers have argued that a constitutional conference made no sense until Mr Smith agreed to attend it, and now the official view seems to be that Mr Smith should chair it in Rhodesia, and London should be left out of the picture until the moment arrives to give legal force to any settlement that emerges. This attitude, which seems reasonable here, takes too little account of African resentment at Britain's conduct of the Rhodesian dispute so far. The

Africans now see that it was not British efforts, but those of the Frelimo guerrillas which have at last changed the scene. This may be unfair to Britain's difficulties in making sanctions work in the face of other nations' evasions of Security Council resolutions. The fact remains that they think Britain has fallen short. With Mr Callaghan to talk to now, they may very well bring up once more the list of additional measures that they think Britain could deploy to coerce the Rhodesians towards concessions—such as cutting them out of the Postal Union or cancelling British passports used by British residents in Rhodesia.

Mr Callaghan may be briefed to show that these or other measures are impracticable. But then, if the talks fail to come off or break up without agreement, it will again be somebody else who is asked to take the strain while Britain apparently does nothing: for then Frelimo will surely be asked to close all the Portuguese loopholes, as well as allowing the guerrillas to operate from its territory—both at no little cost to Mozambique. It will be surprising if the Africans concede to Mr Callaghan that Britain has done enough.

Unfortunately the outlook for a settlement, which would immensely relieve Britain's overseas worries, is far from promising, despite the combined efforts of Mr Vorster and President Kaunda both of whom so urgently need a peaceful transition in Rhodesia to majority rule. South Africa needs it to avoid being sucked into a kind of southern African Vietnam, and Zambia needs it almost as badly to save its crumbling communications to the coast. The recent terrorist outrage in which South African

police were killed while parleying about the supposed ceasefire shows that the Zulu guerrillas and their backers accept no ceasefire yet. Mr Smith's precondition for a conference was a ceasefire, and he can now justify a refusal to proceed until he gets one—and can press for continued South African military help. If he does not say so, some of his party faithful will. To get the ceasefire going while the raiding continues will therefore be difficult, though of course it must be attempted. The visit of Sir Roy Welensky in Lusaka may here do good: he, better than most, can give President Kaunda a convincing assessment of white Rhodesian attitudes at this juncture, and show what is needed to get the constitutional discussions moving.

It is still to everyone's advantage to have the conference, except the terrorists, who may or may not be out of the control of their nominal political leaders. Even presuming that Mr Smith and his colleagues have decided not to yield much on early majority rule, they need a record of reasonable concessions to retain South African official support. The process of debate, an long interdicted to Rhodesia, can itself loosen up rigid attitudes. The chances of success will obviously increase if the atmosphere is right. It needs to be seen in Rhodesia that the African leaders are trying to restrain terrorism. The pressure on the Smith regime needs to continue—and it needs to extend its clemency to Mr Garfield Todd—however much it may fear that he would prove a useful ally of the African negotiators. Mr Callaghan may not have much to contribute to this combined operation, but he will not achieve a good impression if he arrives quite empty-handed.

BANGLADESH BRACED FOR A GRIM FUTURE

The state of emergency proclaimed in Bangladesh on Saturday has seemed inevitable for some months past. Some might think that this country, born in emergency by Indian induction, has never lifted itself out of that condition in the three years of its existence. Now the doubt will be whether the call to order and the imposition of new discipline can any longer be effective when Shaikh Mujib's government has lost the confidence of the politically conscious population. For what the government must now do is not simply to put an end to the violence that it attributes to its opponents, or to the hooligan elements whose possession of arms allows them to live by exactions, but to restrain the brutality and indiscipline of its own para-military forces. The 3,000 members of the Awami League who are said to have been killed have not all been innocent victims. Killing for political ends or for local advantage began in the struggle for independence and has continued since, with more violence accompanying smuggling or other illicit deals. No political faction can escape blame.

To deplore the state to which Bangladesh has been reduced is not to overlook the gross hand-

caps from which, as a country, it starts. In relation to productive capacity population pressure is worse than for any other nation of comparable size. There is no mineral wealth. The quota of natural disasters by flooding, drought and hurricanes regularly exceeds any of its neighbours'. The greater part of its population is underfed, underemployed and undereducated. Such conditions called forth generous alms from a world sympathetic to Bengali suffering after 1971. By now the aid-givers have lost heart and the social workers, missionaries, technicians and distributors of aid within the country despair. The begging bowl held out so confidently three years ago hangs listlessly down. The £400 millions a year that the country needs even to keep alive will not be forthcoming.

Against all these disadvantages that have brought their share of suffering to Bangladesh the charge to be set against maladministration is nevertheless the heavier. The corruption goes from top to bottom. Very few of Shaikh Mujib's closest colleagues are not included in the constant allegations. And if Shaikh Mujib himself still retains some respect it must be admitted that his sentimental

rhetoric is no longer enough to win obedience from a divided country. On top of that his attachment to his colleagues is everywhere criticized, so that the Awami League far from being a party expressive of the national interest seems only one that leans on the leader and collects the pickings of power.

In what way may the state of emergency now turn the tide towards honesty and efficiency? The charges made in the proclamation against unspecified elements in the population might imply that the emergency is intended only to bolster the power of the Awami League and little else. A government of a more authoritarian character determined to impose discipline on the country might well be the harsh answer needed, but what confidence does the population have in those who would impose the discipline? Neither the Indians who liberated Bangladesh, nor the Russians who patronized Bangladesh as a responsibility to their Indian interest, nor any other aiding or politically interested power can or would wish to influence the outcome. Somehow Bangladesh is going to have to find its own answer to its political problems.

David Wood Awards for the politicians of the year

As the year closes it would be agreeable to look back on 1974 and be able to point with absolute certainty to the birth of one new idea in British politics, or even an old idea that had been given force and freshness by the genius of its expression. Any such search must fail.

British politics remains stubbornly non-intellectual, an activity as practical as bookkeeping or bricklaying whenever it is not simply a matter of reflex responses to external events. In spite of two general elections and three Budgets nothing merited by a British politician in 1974 will deserve to live on into the next year, unless it is the beautiful paradox from Mr Willie Whitelaw, as Conservative Party chairman, when he accused Mr Harold Wilson of "stirring up complacency during the October election campaign."

Those who mocked Mr Whitelaw for verbal ineptitude made too little allowance for the backstage energy Mr Wilson can bring to a policy of ostentatious inactivity.

In default of ideas, then, how can the year 1974 be remembered? The answer is: by the politicians who set their stamp upon it either by their abilities or their force of character. On that test the politician of the year, the winner of the Westminister Oscar, must be Mr Jim Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary.

At some point that even he might find it hard to fix, perhaps as he passed his sixtieth birthday and discovered the spiritual rather than the material rewards of getting mud on his boots as he loped and barley-cut across the fields of the Westminister. Mr Callaghan found fulfillment in the fact that subtle change from politician to statesman.

He found that when he stopped trying so hard everything came easily. He had been broken as Chancellor of the Exchequer by devaluation; he did not recover his confidence as Home Secretary; and his relationship with Mr Wilson was damaged by his opposition to "In Place of Strife".

But in March this year he went to the Foreign Office, his peace made with Mr Wilson, and month by month he established a command over his department and over the Commons that nobody else today may equal. To a splendid presence at the despatch box, he adds an easy, relaxed style of narrative and debate that talks of total inner confidence. It would be going too far to say that he has gained the world by surrendering it, but the secret seems to be that, after nearly 30 years in the House, Jim Callaghan has learnt the hard way that he values nobody's good opinion more than his own self respect.

Everybody's good opinion is therefore added upon him. It is a hacknanded tribute, yet still a significant tribute, that when two or three Tories gather together and speculate about an impending national crisis that could break up the existing party system and bring a coalition government into being, Mr Callaghan is usually named as the one man round whom the coalition could form.

I believe they mistake their man; Mr Callaghan is too deeply steeped in his party's history, too much the party manager by inclination, to go the way of Ramsay MacDonald in 1931. But there is no doubt that he would be essential to any coalition in the immediate future. He towers over both front benches, at least for the time being.

I hope it will not seem perverse to name as runner-up for the Westminister Oscar, 1974, Mr Edward Heath, above all for the strength of character he has shown in defeat and in adversity.

Public life is made easy by success. The chess bring success of adrenalin that carry the victorious player through his 18-hour day, doubling his energy and making the hard work light. But in defeat there is no consolation to be found anywhere except in the reading and re-reading of Kipling's *If*; and

Mr Heath has no marked taste for poetry and the balm it may lay to the troubled soul.

For Mr Heath there is the bitterness of knowing that if he had stood his ground against those who urged him into a late February election he could still have been at No 10. Now he has lost two general elections in quick succession, and every day he awakens to lead into battle a party that openly searches for a new general. His hopes desert him, and friendships distance themselves into discretion. The humiliation is heaped upon him of designing the scaffold of a new leadership election procedure on which he must soon stand.

Nothing in Mr Heath's public performance of his duties since the October general election hints at the gall that must now be his daily draught. Somewhere within himself he has found the resources of courage and character to face a world of critics and intriguers, and to continue the fight so vindicated himself as leader against all challengers. I find that admirable. With one exception, his rivals for the party leadership, if they exist, have so far shown markedly less courage and character.

The exception, of course, is Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who must be reckoned not only the woman politician of the year but also of the decade. In 1974 she came to full stature: one of the most formidable debaters on the Conservative front bench, one of its toughest thinkers, and the first woman in British politics ever to go for the party leadership.

When the 1922 committee vote under the new leadership procedure in February or March Mrs Thatcher may succeed only in smoking out into the open a more successful male challenger to Mr Heath. But she will have jumped ahead of him in the past few years. In the 1974 election she was not only the first woman to be reckoned with as a new and original force in Conservative politics for many years to come.

It is certainly a safe bet that in the fullness of time she will become the first woman Chancellor of the Exchequer Westminster and Whitehall have known, and when the day comes we shall all know she has arrived.

Consultants' threat of sanctions

From Professor Ian McColl
Sir, As an independent member of the Owton Working Party, I wish to clarify certain features of the negotiations which seem to have caused some confusion.

In response to the profession's request for a new contract in 1974, the Government offered its new contract on December 20. The profession is under no obligation to accept it, and may continue with the existing contractual arrangements which would continue to apply to future consultants' appointments. Some consultants, however, are applying sanctions because they are applying the new contract. This is certainly not the case.

Secondly, the profession asked for the present open-ended contract to be closed and emergency work at nights and weekends to be paid for separately. It would be fair to state that the Government and the Department of Health and Social Security were opposed to this but later gave way. They have defined the closed contract as normally constituting a five-day week from 9 am to 5 pm. Clearly some definition is essential in order to allow extra payment for emergency work done out of hours. This definition is not rigid and in no way precludes other working hours such as 10 am to 6 pm or 8 am until 4 pm provided this is acceptable to the other members of the profession.

Thirdly, I have attended all the meetings of the working party, and have heard full discussions on most of the important aspects of the new contract. Naturally some discussions were omitted in December due to the threat of sanctions. David Owen has been an honest and noticeably patient chairman who has compromised on many issues. He originally wished to pay those who did not practice considerably more than those who did. Under pressure he reduced this differential to 18 per cent, which is approximately as it now stands, and which incidentally is offset somewhat by the favourable tax arrangements enjoyed by those engaged in private practice. Originally the latter was not intended to have career structure supplements but again he compromised over this issue.

Lastly, the frustration of the consultants can readily be understood. At a time of severe inflation they have seen their incomes (the National Health Service falling far behind those of other professional bodies. Those working in hospitals far from large centres may lose as much as 50 per cent of their gross earnings while the pay beds are rising by 20 per cent. This is running very high indeed and clearly what is required is a cooling-off period in the interests of patients and the medical profession, both of whom may suffer irreparable damage from the results of sanctions.

A new contract, designed in the interests of patients, it would especially help those working in understaffed and unpopular situations. Many think it contains imperfections and uncertainties which need clarification. What is required at this crucial time is further discussion rather than precipitate action.

Yours faithfully,
IAN McCOLL, Professor of Surgery, Guy's Hospital, 10 Gilkes Crescent, SE21.

Human rights in European law

From Mr Neville March Hunnington
Sir, It is very disturbing to read that the Commission of the European Communities is threatening the German Government as a result of the decision of the German Constitutional Court in the *Internationale Handelsgesellschaft* case. That it should be worried is understandable, for the German Government has taken which it has drafted tested against human rights provisions in a national constitution, especially when the Community has not yet adopted its own Bill of Rights.

But in fact the judgment of the Constitutional Court is an extremely careful and wise interim solution to an insoluble problem that one had hoped would eventually be transcended through the European Court of Justice—the problem of the conflict between universal validity of Community legislation and the national rights of citizens. The fundamental rights of citizens, a conflict in which, freshly under the impact of Lord Justice Scarman's far-sighted Hamlyn Lectures, can hardly afford to be complacent.

The Constitutional Court in the best tradition of post-war German justice, has a very close concern with the rights and liberties of the individual and was not prepared to see them surrendered by a mere treaty ratification Act of the Federal Parliament—at least, not unless the Community itself were to accept an equivalent duty to protect them.

It is easy to imagine the Commission's indignation if member governments attempted to influence the rulings of the European Court of Justice by means of political pressure. It is even more improper in the present case where the Constitutional Court, a supreme tribunal of particularly high standing and in a judgment which can stand comparison with the rulings of the United States Supreme Court, is being politically attacked not for hindering the application of Community laws (in fact upheld them) but for claiming the right to examine them in case at some time one of the rights of the citizens whom it is its very task to protect. The danger of this attack on the independence of the judiciary can hardly be over-emphasized and it can only be deplored that the Commission has not taken such a rash and unprecedented step.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGTON, Common Market Law Reports, 43 Fleet Street, E.C.4, December 21.

Letters to the Editor

was prepared if need he to place human rights even above the Community laws. The plaintiffs would almost certainly dissolve away.

That such protection is necessary is shown by the Commission's attitude in the German judgment and its attempt to belittle the issue. It is not as if the plaintiffs matter. The estranged deposit was some £3,000 (DM17,026), not the £300 your reporter was told (this represented some 8,000 tonnes of maize groats remaining unexported out of the 20,000 tonnes on the licence); there had been a long series of similar cases before the same first instance court, all involving varying degrees of injustice with the European Court dismissed to a rather cavalier way. The deposit system turns an export licence from a mere authorization, even upon conditions, into an onerous burden on the trader if something should go wrong, and such trivial sums as a 24-hour delay in customs clearance can involve loss of the whole deposit; and the aim of this system of "fines" is to force traders to carry out their stated export (and import) intentions to the letter so that the Commission's trade statistics and thus its advance predictions will be accurate.

It is easy to imagine the Commission's indignation if member governments attempted to influence the rulings of the European Court of Justice by means of political pressure. It is even more improper in the present case where the Constitutional Court, a supreme tribunal of particularly high standing and in a judgment which can stand comparison with the rulings of the United States Supreme Court, is being politically attacked not for hindering the application of Community laws (in fact upheld them) but for claiming the right to examine them in case at some time one of the rights of the citizens whom it is its very task to protect. The danger of this attack on the independence of the judiciary can hardly be over-emphasized and it can only be deplored that the Commission has not taken such a rash and unprecedented step.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGTON, Common Market Law Reports, 43 Fleet Street, E.C.4, December 21.

property to be used, to the knowledge that they will be given guaranteed vacant possession when it is actually needed. But when you also suggest that the job of filling empty properties be given to these same astonishingly complacent and inefficient local authorities, we could not differ with you more strongly.

The thought of creating yet another bureaucratic monster, specifically to tackle the problem of housing, is indeed depressing. But a Housing Emergency Office (as suggested by Shelter) or an Empty Housing Agency (as we ourselves have proposed) need not be such a monster. All that is required is to find some way of harnessing the abundance of energy and expertise which already exist in the Housing Association movement, and in other local organizations. Given the legal powers and the money, we have confidence that the housing associations (comprising nearly 200,000 people) could solve Britain's homelessness crisis in little more than a year. Make no mistake, the self-esteem of a number of local authorities might have to be punctured in the process. But it can and must be done.

CHRISTOPHER BOOKER, BENTLEY GRAY, The Observer, 160 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4, December 19.

The trial of Dr Stern

From Mr Boris Antonov
Sir, I have read the letter by Michael Sherbourne you published (December 20), and decided that you probably do not have all the information. I see it is difficult for a judge from London, whether witness Guzewa cursed Dr Stern for swindling and deception or sang praises to him as the best of all doctors. But I think you will agree with me that no person can be declared not guilty a priori, without even knowing what he is charged with.

Yet, it was precisely so on the part of Bernard Levin and those who look to his article as the gospel truth. Mind you, even before the trial began in Vienna, the Stern case, in general a run-of-the-mill case about swindling and bribe extortion, was raised to the rank of epoch-making case, "the like of which has not been seen in the civilized world for some five or six centuries" (I quote Levin). Even before the preliminary investigation was completed and the indictment drawn up, in Britain and indeed in other countries, actions in defence of Stern were organized. Those who spoke claimed in advance that Stern was absolutely innocent. The possibility of Stern being guilty at all was rejected out of hand. There are still many letters, petitions and memos arriving in Vienna, in which Stern is announced as not subject to law simply because he is a Jew.

Such an approach to Stern's case, I believe, is wrong from the bounds of common sense. In my accounts from Vienna which were forwarded to you I wrote only about what I had seen and heard. The

Housing the homeless

From Mr Christopher Booker and Mr Bennie Gray
Sir, With respect to your editorial of December 17, two things have become supremely clear about the present appalling homelessness crisis. The first is that the only conceivable way the crisis can quickly and practically be alleviated is to make some equation between the 100,000 people who are homeless and the total of anything up to 1,000,000 houses and flats that are lying empty and useless.

The second is that it is no good looking to Britain's local authorities for the solution, since they are themselves almost entirely responsible for creating the crisis. In London alone, anything up to half the 100,000 empty properties actually belong to local authorities—who in many cases are making the problem worse by crazy redevelopment schemes. Thousands of empty flats and houses bought under recent "municipalization" schemes (some in first-class condition) are standing empty, simply because local authorities do not have the resources or determination to set them into use.

This is an almost unbelievable national scandal. You rightly suggest that a part of the solution must be to create a special legal device to enable landlords to allow their

Care of works of art

From Mr Theodor Crombie
Sir, Mr Hugh Leggatt's article (December 17) is a timely reminder of the dilatoriness of the present Government in facing up to the immense problems surrounding the housing and conservation of the growing number of works of art in our public collections. They cannot claim to have been taken by surprise, for as long ago as 1950 a distinguished curator, Mr Murray Pease, of the Metropolitan Museum, could write in a UNESCO publication that a flourishing public interest in museums and museum policies has emphasized the desirability of broader scope and enlarged public services.

"At the same time current economic trends have conspired to enlarge public collections and to reduce available operating budgets." And this was 25 years ago, long before a mooted wealth tax that would clearly transfer a flood of already fast deteriorating works of art to national and local authorities, mostly quite unequipped to house and care for them. In spite of a personal experience of hundreds of good paintings in private ownership which owing to existing taxation, inflation and a shortage of restorers are not receiving the attention they deserve.

Yours faithfully,
THEODORE CROMBIE, 133 Old Church Street, SW3, December 27.

Public lending right

From Sir Brian Batesford
Sir, I do not argue with my old friend Sir Robert Lusty over the need for some form of public lending right, but I do challenge his assertion (December 23) that "no author is at the mercy of his publisher".

With a few notable exceptions I would suggest that authors have always been suitably treated by publishers, and that it is why they have to employ literary agents to negotiate with publishers on their behalf.

There would be far less need for such devices as public lending right if publishers recognized that profits from successful books should be more fairly shared with other members of the book trade—especially authors and booksellers.

Yours faithfully,
SIR BRIAN BATESFORD, 19 Norfolk Road, NW8.

Planning delays

From Mr F. M. M. Lewes
Sir, Your recent correspondence on this subject has revealed only one side of the question. Anyone who has been on a Development Committee during the past few years will be well aware of the increase in public concern about planning.

The inhabitants of a town will no longer accept, and rightly, skylines breached by stragglers of houses, trees torn down unnecessarily, and the erection of grandiose, one-off, five, thatched cottages with picture windows or excesses on the back of terrace houses overpowering their neighbours' gardens, to name just a few of the things we have recently been asked to allow. Some of these matters are major issues, some are minor, except to the man next door.

We welcome public interest—

Siege of Ladysmith

From Mr Cecil Moxcomb
Sir, In his review of Kenneth Griffith's book on the siege of Ladysmith (December 16), Mr Pakenham criticizes Sir George White for defending the town. It is, of course, customary today to denigrate past heroes, but in this case the views expressed are in conflict with the conclusions of those who fought there.

I had many interesting and dispassionate discussions with good friends who were in the Boer commandos that invaded Natal in 1899. They took quite a few years ago when I was in the Eastern Transvaal, and when their memories were quite fresh. They held the view that General Joubert was too old to command and that a younger man might have exploited their remarkable mobility by screening

Cars in city centres

From Mr J. M. Milner
Sir, Congestion, noise, fumes, delay, fuel wastage and car bombs—ought we to impose severe restrictions on the entry of private cars into city centres?

Yours faithfully,
J. M. MILNER, City Architect and Planning Officer, City of Cambridge, The Guildhall, Cambridge.

Planning delays

indeed we stimulate it by advertising all planning applications. We accept that people feel deeply about these things. One does not encourage delays, but one must realize that the care with which planners and development committees must watch their backs for the sake of the only money but time I have seen too many awful suggestions in planning applications over the past eight years to believe that we dare relax. Indeed for the sake of the citizens of our towns both today and in the future, we should tighten our controls.

Yours etc,
F. M. M. LEWES, Chairman, Exeter City Development Committee, Hope Cottage, 43 Higher Shapter Street, Tipton, Exeter, Devon.

Telford has the space and the people for growing companies

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

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President Ford axes 5pc surtax from 31-point plan to beat inflation

President Ford has killed his proposal for a 5 per cent surtax included in a 31-point economic programme sent to Congress on October 15.

Redistribution of oil funds the key issue now, Americans say

Frank Vogel, Washington, Dec 29. The United States Administration is not changing its mind on the major oil-consumption countries should finance their payments.

Trawlermen in distress call to Government

Britain's fishing industry, already in the grip of the worst crisis it has experienced, is appealing for Government support.

New Soviet outburst on US Trade Reform Bill

From Edmund Stevens Moscow, Dec 29. America's Trade Reform Bill, linking most-favoured-nation treatment for the Soviet Union with liberalization of its emigration policy, continues to rattle.

Paris ban on steel stockist shares lifted

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 29. Quotation in the shares of 'Marine-Firminy', the steel holding company, will be restored.

Guyana's sugar workers share record £1m bonus

From Our Correspondent Georgetown, Dec 29. Guyana's Sugar Producers' Association announced that workers would receive an unprecedented £65.5m (more than £1m) payout in production bonuses for 1974.

North Sea will save £175m imports

North Sea oil will save Britain about £175m in foreign exchange next year. It is estimated that 5 million tons of oil, 5 per cent of the nation's oil, will be brought ashore from the first five fields to come into production.

Japan's economic planners predict that real domestic growth will improve 4.3 pc next year

The government will continue to maintain a tight money policy as its chief weapon against inflation. Setting out the government's long-term objectives, the report suggested the government should introduce other fiscal measures to keep the rate of inflation below 10 per cent by the end of the coming fiscal year.

Private steel project for joint iron ore plant

By Peter Hill. Joint investment in a direct reduction plant to provide iron for steelmaking will be considered shortly by British private sector steel producers.

Panel to advise Chamber of Commerce

By Malcolm Brown. An economic panel to advise the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the whole field of economic and industrial policy has been set up.

Bank of England policies at odds, broker contends

W. Greenwell and Co, the City stockbroker firm, says the Bank of England is pursuing conflicting financial policies.

Chile to denationalize 12 state-owned banks

Santiago, Dec 29. Chile's military government is set to sell 12 state-owned banks to private enterprise. It will also transfer shares held by the state in six other banks to private hands.

Lending rate 11 1/2 pc

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate is unchanged this week at 11 1/2 per cent. The following are the results of Friday's Treasury Bill tender:

IBA moving quickly on radio station franchises

By Patricia Tisdall. Preliminary interviews are to be held next month by the Independent Broadcasting Authority for the remaining radio stations in the independent radio network.

'Export your skills' call to builders

Mr Roger Foster, president of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, believes that the British building industry could increase overseas business fivefold next year.

Beira freight charges up 30pc next month

Member shipping companies of the South and South African conference will announce today that they will introduce a 30 per cent post-cancellation surcharge from January 13 on cargoes shipped to and from the Mozambique port of Beira.

The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results to appear in 1974.

The closing date (31st December) for the 1974 Award Scheme is now very close and we would like to remind those companies wishing to take part in the competition that they must submit their entries by 6th January at the latest.

Table with 2 columns: Page Number and Page Content. Includes sections like 'On other pages', 'Bank Base Rates Table', 'Company Meeting Report', 'Prospectus', 'Lending rate 11 1/2 pc'.

FINANCIAL NEWS

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

World markets and economic prospects

There was a strong consistency in the performance of leading stock markets in 1974, typified by an average fall of around 30 per cent in North America, Europe and Australia. The much sharper fall of 54 per cent in London (a drop exceeded only in Hongkong) tells its own story of Britain's economic prospects in 1975. Brazil apart, Frankfurt was the only market to escape an overall fall in 1974, which points to the underlying resilience of the German economy. Likewise Johannesburg's relatively modest fall of 13 per cent over the year reflects the basic strength of the South African economy. Most markets, however, enter 1975 overweighed by fears of continuing high inflation, low growth, declining world trade and continued high oil prices.

Wall Street Wall Street displayed marked resilience during 1974 in the face of Watergate and the international energy and monetary crises. However, the market enters 1975 heavily overweighed by fears of continuing high inflation. The issue dominated sentiment at the start of last year but the ending of the Arab oil cutback in the spring had already been discounted and brought little relief in the market.

As the Prime Rate moved up to a peak of around 12 per cent by mid year the Dow Jones dipped. Then heavy rains, followed by drought, brought fears of high food prices and reduced consumer spending. Wall Street looked poised for a takeoff for the better period when it appeared that former President Nixon might survive Watergate, though this brief rally petered out on his resignation. His successor's anti-inflationary package in October produced another rally though institutions again took advantage of it to offload stock in the market as in previous 1974 rallies.

Dow Jones Industrial Average 1974 Opening level 850; closing 615. Fall 28.5 per cent. High (low) 892 (735).

Johannesburg Johannesburg held up better than most other stock markets in 1974, largely because of the underlying resilience of the South African economy. The impact of the energy crisis was attenuated by the fact that 70 per cent of the energy base is supplied by coal.

Another principal supporting factor was the rise in the gold price during the year, from \$12 an ounce in around the \$190 level. News at the end of the year of the Franco-American agreement to value official holdings of gold at current prices saw the market higher too. The big factor, however, behind a 25 per cent rise in the RDM Index between October and December was the progress towards a settlement between Rhodesia and its black African neighbours.

Road Daily Mail Industrial Index 1974 Opening level 223; closing 193. Fall 13.5 per cent. High (low) 270 (154).

Toronto Toronto broadly followed the profile of Wall Street last year—downward, though with a few brief technical rallies. Canadian stock markets had their own worries to contend with, however, not the least being the rise in the Prime Rate from 9 per cent in the first quarter to a peak of 11 per cent in the third.

Prime Minister Trudeau's suggestion that he might limit oil exports to the United States brought fears of retaliation over the Auto Pact. Like that in the United States, Canadian industry is now diagnosed to be in a "classical inventory recession" and whether profits can hold up in the face

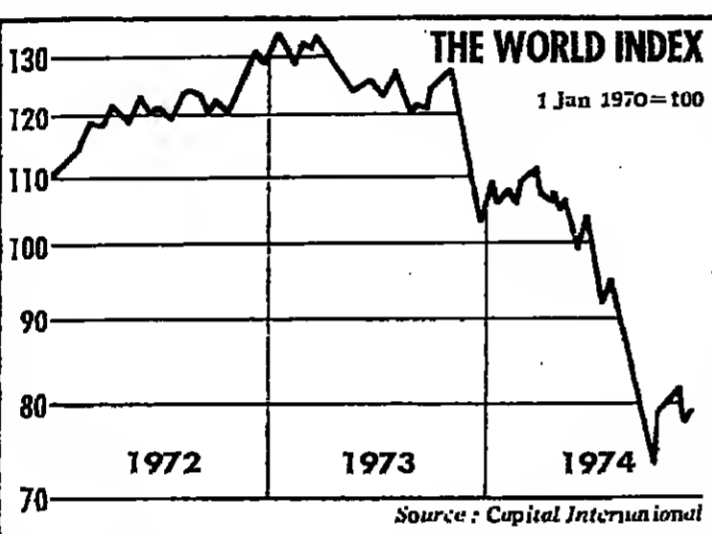
of a fall in consumer spending is the question overhauling the Canadian stock markets in 1975. Toronto Stock Exchange Industrial Index. 1974 Opening level 210; closing 154. Fall 26.5 per cent. High (low) 229 (150).

Sydney Selling of Australian equities by British institutions was one of the factors behind the fall in the Sydney stock markets during 1974. However, high interest rates, a squeeze on the money supply and the general malaise of capitalism were important contributory factors.

High inflation—running in the final quarter at an annual rate of over 20 per cent—has helped depress equity sentiment, too, while high interest rates tended to divert savings into the fixed interest sector. Generally the reduced volume of foreign investment in Australia on fears of a less friendly climate for business there has been bad for the stock markets.

Sydney All Ordinaries Index. 1974 Opening level 435; closing 302. Fall 30 per cent. High (low) 536 (239).

Hongkong The slowdown in world trade has been particularly critical for the international trading



companies in the Far East—a factor which helped bring about heavy falls in the Singapore as well as Hongkong stock exchange during 1974.

In May the markets in both Hongkong and Singapore rallied quite sharply when the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank once again began accepting equities as collateral for loans. However, the tightening of the money supply in Hongkong, together with the Chinese reversion to their predilection for holding gold, has been a heavy depressant on the stock market. The Hang Seng Index peaked at 1770 in March 1973.

Hang Seng Index. 1974 Opening level 433; closing 156. Fall 64 per cent. High (low) 470 (150).

Tokyo The Tokyo stock market has reflected the general bearishness over Japan's heavy dependence on high-cost oil imports. June saw a rally in the Tokyo market in the expectation of an easing in the official tight money policy. However, this did not materialize and the market came back again in the final quarter of 1974.

Failure by the Liberal Democratic Party to get its expected majority of seats in the July elections was also bad for market sentiment. Inflation has been pulled back from the starting level of 37 per cent (compared with a year previously) reached early in the year to nearer 20 per cent. However, the spring wage negotiations are linked to inflation and unless the Japanese government can get the rate down further

the prospects for corporate margins and liquidity in 1975 are not good. Tokyo Dow Jones Index. 1974 Opening level 4300; closing 3880. Fall 10 per cent. High (low) 4800 (3350).

Amsterdam Ironically the internationalism which Amsterdam boasts among European stock markets was one of the causes of its relatively sharp downfall during 1974. Wall Street selling of stocks like Royal Dutch and Unilever had strong repercussions in Amsterdam while the remaining two of the Dutch big-four international companies—Philips and AKZO—were both heavily sold because of the declining fortunes of the consumer durables and textiles sectors respectively.

Capital International Index. 1974 Opening level 75.3; closing 52.8. Fall 30 per cent. High (low) 77 (53.4).

Frankfurt Frankfurt was alone among European stock markets in ending 1974 around the same level at the start of the year. The market started the year in the doldrums as the full potential impact of the oil crisis on an economy some 75 per cent oil-dependent was appreciated. However, the trend of heavy

German trade surpluses seen in 1973 did not peter out as many had expected and the advantages of currency appreciation in cheapening vital imports began to show through. Though the market remained relatively depressed until the autumn it has recovered well since, partly under the impact of an inflow of Arab United States, Swiss and other foreign funds and partly in expectation of internal reflationary measures designed to stem the growing tide of unemployment in Germany.

Capital International Index. 1974 Opening level 68.2; closing 68. Nil change. High (low) 73.5 (62.2).

Paris Despite early resilience, the Paris stock market collapsed badly during 1974, registering the second most severe fall after London. The advantages of France's favoured nation treatment by the Middle East oil producer states were heavily outweighed by the country's general decline in economic growth, compounded by export problems and leading to growing unemployment and social unrest.

President Giscard's narrow victory over Mitterrand did not help market sentiment, which grew even more depressed as domestic and supporting inflation pushed interest rates in France up to some of the highest levels recorded in Europe during 1974.

Capital International Index. 1974 Opening level 93.7; closing 60. Fall 36 per cent. High (low) 102 (56).

Arab infiltration into Hongkong trade takes firmer root

Hongkong, Dec 29. The Arabs are strengthening trade and financial links with Hongkong, it is reported here. Bilateral trade between the Arab countries and Hongkong is expected to reach \$HK1,500 million this year, nearly 80 per cent more than the 1973 total of \$HK840m.

Last year direct exports from the colony reached \$HK300m and re-exports \$HK120m. In return the Arab States sold \$HK220m worth of goods to the colony. This trade is expected to continue in 1975 with the balance in Hongkong's favour. Generally, the Arabs buy all kinds of locally produced goods—clothes, watches and electronic goods. In return, Hongkong buys petroleum products and raw cotton.

Four months ago, the Luxembourg-based Bank of Credit Commerce International, which is 72.5 per cent Arab-controlled, announced the opening of a finance company here, BECI Finance International, which has an authorized and paid-up capital of \$HK5m. It will provide a channel for Europe and the Middle East for investment in the colony's trade and commerce.

Three weeks later, a consortium of banks for the Middle East and several leading Japanese banks announced the establishment of a finance corporation, Uban-Arab Japanese Finance in the colony.

The \$HK25m investment will finance short, middle and perhaps long-term loans in local and foreign currencies. —Reuter.

French Pickfords' stake

Pickfords International France SA bought 70.6 per cent of the 3.26m francs capital of the Paris, Bourse and Pickfords SA (STIP) for nearly 9m francs, the Brokers' Association said in Paris. The Pickfords purchase was of some 59,000 of STIP's 84,000 shares at 148.65 francs a share. The seller was not named.

STIP was quoted at this price on the over-the-counter section of the Paris Bourse and Pickfords is offering the same price to all sellers of STIP shares until February 10.—Reuter.

Hoechst to buy US plastics group

In a deal involving about \$100m (about £33m), the American Hoechst Corporation plans to take over Foster Grant Co Inc, of Massachusetts. Hoechst will buy 95 per cent of Foster Grant, which at present is 70 per cent owned by United Brands and 5 per cent by the Goodman family, by the end of the year. The remaining 5 per cent will be acquired later. The capital of Foster Grant, maker of styrofoam, polystyrene and fibreglass plastics products, is about \$75m with a turnover this year of some \$200m.

Bolands' warning

Dublin-based bankers and millers Bolands looks to improvement in trading in the current year, but Mr R. J. Murphy, chairman, gives a warning that the cost of financing essential stocks and customers' credit will impose a heavy burden. Further ahead is the necessity to replace aging assets and funds, for this must be created out of retained profits. As known the pre-tax last year fell from £53,000 to £195,000 though the dividend was unchanged. Mr Murphy explains the

Results TODAY: Interims: Phillips Harris, Negretti & Zambra, and Smith Holdings (Whitworth). Finals: First Reinvestment Trust, Quality Cleaners, and R. Smallshaw Knitwear.

THURSDAY: Interims: Smith & Wallis. Finals: Inter European Property Holdings.

FRIDAY: Interims: Somptex.

More share prices The following companies will be added to the London and Regional Share Price List tomorrow and will be published in Business News: Commercial and Industrial Danks Gowerion Wharf Mill Furnishers.

Cost efficiency enters US mining

San Manuel, Arizona. Because American mining companies have traditionally enjoyed a technological edge over potential foreign competitors, they have not had to be concerned with efficiency and cost-cutting. But things are now changing. "Mine management generally is obsessed behind other industries", claims Mr Emory Ayers, a New York consultant. "Mining men think of themselves as in mining and not in business." But in the Arizona hills, where American Smelting & Refining and Kennecott Copper also have operations, the tides of change are running somewhat faster these days. Unlike other industries, miners here are working off the store of old accumulated practices.

It was not until 1971, for example, that Altagma Copper found that a computer could work out the payroll faster and more accurately than six clerks on manual calculators. For Mr John Goss, the mine superintendent, to plan and deliver the constant grade of ore needed by the concentrator, the computer now is doing overnight what it also issues instructions. The new computer-controlled anode casting wheel machines, recently developed in Europe and installed at San Manuel this year, measures each anode of molten metal to within about 1/10th of the 789-lb target. The savings offered by the new machine are "vast", but they could have been "realized much sooner". —AP-DJ.

EIB loan to Zaire European Investment Bank, the long-term finance institution of 16.6m units of account (111 million Zaires) in Gemamines, a state-controlled group in the Republic of Zaire. The loan will help in finance mining and industrial investments required in the group's second five-year development plan. Gemamines mines important copper reserves in the Shaba region of Zaire, and has already received from the EIB in 1971 a loan of £16m units of account.

Commodities

Win a 25 oz gold-plated silver bar

Most people enjoy attempting to win something for nothing or at least just the cost of a postage stamp. Here is your chance to start 1975 with a modest profit. Sterling Commodities, the London based commodity brokers are offering one 25 oz gold-plated silver bar and five 2 ounce silver bars as prizes in a new competition. These will be awarded to investors who most accurately predict the fixing price for spot silver to one place of decimals (203.9p on Friday) and the morning fixing price for gold to two places of decimals (1995.00 on Friday afternoon) on January 31, 1975. The prizes will be awarded to the top six on silver; the gold prediction will only be used in the event of a tie. Entries to: Sterling Commodities, Piccadilly House, 16-17, Jersey Street, London, SW1, and they must arrive by or be postmarked January 10.

By John Woodland

Win a 25 oz gold-plated silver bar

This column is rather hopeless at forecasting commodity prices although last year's prediction that copper would at the end of 1974 be £250 to £300 lower than the £861 recorded on December 28, 1973, was not too bad. Aod rubber estimated to be 20p to 25p a kilo cheaper than the 34.50p at that time was in the right direction. But two forecasts out of 14 are certainly nothing to crow about. Sugar, for instance, was put at below £100 and is now £450, and cocoa estimated at around the £400 mark is now £380. However, nothing ventured nothing gained. So the fixing price of spot silver on January 31 will undoubtedly be 182.5p while gold must come down to \$173.25. At this time last year there were many warnings of a possible slowdown in many industrial nations' economies but the boom in commodity prices continued fervently for some months. Currently the position is reversed and many commodities are fully expected to become cheaper over the next three months or so. But in a year hence most prices in the accompanying table could be quite a lot dearer, with the notable exception of cocoa. Here is a classic case of high prices reducing consumption and with sugar continuing dear world chocolate usage may well fall further. A return to around £500 a tonne would not be surprising. Coffee had a disappointing year in price terms with the producers falling in their threat to boost prices. Most metal values are under pressure with producers desperately seeking measures to give them a higher rating. It may be some time, however, before there is a reversal of the current price trend but it is certain that this will come.

Table with 7 columns: Commodity, Dec 24, 1974, June 28, 1974, High point, Dec 28, 1973, June 29, 1973, Dec 29, 1972. Rows include Copper, Silver, Tin, Lead, Zinc, Rubber, Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, Wheat, and Barley.

Closest middle price. Copper, tin, lead and zinc all a metric ton. Rubber per kilo. Silver a gram mass. Sugar, wheat and barley a long ton.



Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman Sir Alexander Ross

The Year's Results Consolidated profit after tax for the year was £12,702,000, a decrease of 7.5 per cent compared with 1973. In Australian dollars, the profit showed an increase of 1.5 per cent, the difference being due to exchange rate fluctuations, in particular the devaluations of the Australian and New Zealand dollars in September, 1974. The outcome is regarded as satisfactory considering the very difficult economic conditions that developed, particularly in Australia, as the year progressed.

Dividends A final dividend of 4.592p per share is recommended and thus the total distribution for the year will be 9.092p per share. Together with the associated U.K. tax credit, this is equivalent to a total gross dividend of 13.57 per cent for the year payable on the capital as increased by the rights issue in April, 1974 (1973—10.5 per cent on the pre-rights issue capital). This payment is in terms of the consent given by H.M. Treasury at the time of the issue.

Australia The year was a difficult one for the Australian economy with exceptional pressures on the banking industry and an unprecedented liquidity contraction. Deposits with our Trading Bank in Australia decreased by 5 per cent while advances rose by 11 per cent. Savings Bank deposits were marginally down.

Table comparing 1974 and 1973 financial data: Consolidated Profit after tax (£'000), Cost of Dividends (£'000), Pence per share, Earnings per share (Gross equivalent), Total Shareholders' Funds, Deposits and Other Accounts, Advances, etc., Total Assets.

Copies of the Report and Accounts with full text of the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary.

M&W BANK AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED 71 Cornhill, London EC3V 3PR. Includes a logo with Arabic text 'مصرف من الاصل'.

Business appointments

New chief executive at Morgan Grenfell

Mr G. W. Mackworth-Young is to be group chief executive and deputy chairman of Morgan Grenfell. Mr S. T. Badger, Mr A. E. Richmond-Watson, Mr J. C. Smith, Mr J. G. Stanford, Mr D. W. Wells, Mr A. E. Beacom, Mr W. J. Morgan, Mr J. R. Gibson and Mr A. E. Weighill will be senior assistant directors. Mr A. I. S. Duffus, Mr A. E. Dunn, Mr A. F. Holtler, Mr R. M. J. Taylor, Mr W. J. Morgan, Mr P. E. Moore, Mr R. Cort, Mr P. I. Esparham, Mr J. M. Hobbs and Mr G. A. F. Lickley will be managers, corporate finance.

Mr J. A. Porter has been made managing director of Leonard Fairclough. Mr O. Davies remains chairman and chief executive of the Group. Mr F. W. Eilford has been appointed deputy chairman of Roberts Adlard. Mr R. T. J. Hubbard has become works director of the Warrarbyrd (West Glamorgan) plant of the new metals division of Imperial Metal Industries (Kynoch).

Mr M. G. Wilcox, a director and chief general manager, has been made a director of Midland and International Banks and European Banking, and deputy chairman of Euro-Pacific Finance Corporation. Mr Michael Maurice, deputy general manager (investment), has been elected to the board of NHI (National Provident Institution). Mr Pym Cornish has been made deputy chairman and Mr Gerry Levens vice managing director of Research Services. Mr John Stockley will become deputy managing director of Media Expenditure Analysis.

Mr Brian Harris, director of administration United Kingdom, joins the United Kingdom board. Mr Henry Kassam, deputy general manager and actuary, and Mr Michael Maurice, deputy general manager (investment), have been elected to the board of NHI (National Provident Institution). Mr Pym Cornish has been made deputy chairman and Mr Gerry Levens vice managing director of Research Services. Mr John Stockley will become deputy managing director of Media Expenditure Analysis.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Morocco's hold on phosphate output steps up prices

Rabat, Dec 29. It is now apparent that the four-fold rise in phosphate prices since last January was not caused by a strong block of Arab producer nations but by one lone state, Morocco, the leading phosphate exporter.

American exports will fall considerably below last year's 13.9m tons, and the United States is expected to devote ever-greater production to home needs. It made the world to total phosphate output with about 40m tons.

D F Bevan recovery is well on way

On the recovery track last July, after undergoing a drastic shake-up following inaccuracies in the 1970-71 accounts, metal merchants D. F. Bevan (Holdings) moved slightly ahead in the six months to June 30.

Scottish Inv sees bleak hopes of industrial rally

By Our Financial Staff. Net asset value per share fell from 108p in 62 1/2 at Scottish Investment Trust Co to 10 1/2 in the annual statement to shareholders.

Gadek rubber losses

Taxable profits of Gadek Rubber Estate were on their way to being halved from £85,000 to £47,000 for the nine months to September 30, while disclosing a net loss incurred of some £40,000 in the preceding nine months on realization of its

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

At the end of the week, the prices of unit trusts showed a general upward trend, with many funds recording gains of between 1% and 2%.

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Table with columns: Stock Name, Price, Dividend, etc. Includes titles like 'Imperial Gas Ltd', 'British Gas', etc.

Commodities Edited by John Woodland

International copper talks next month

An international conference on copper will be held in London early next month in cooperation to combat the current protracted recession, Japanese industry sources told Reuters in Tokyo.

Thailand tin protest

Thailand is in protest to the United States over the American plan to release about 100,000 tons of stockpiled tin.

Freight report

The recovery track last July, after undergoing a drastic shake-up following inaccuracies in the 1970-71 accounts, metal merchants D. F. Bevan (Holdings) moved slightly ahead in the six months to June 30.

Markets in holiday doldrums

Trading on the London dry cargo markets was at a low ebb over the Christmas week, as many brokers had decided to take the whole week off.

The Times Share Indices

Table showing share indices: All-Share, Industrial, etc. with columns for index, up/down, and percentage change.

Bank Base Rates

Table of bank base rates: Barclays Bank 12%, FNFC 13%, etc.

Brokers' views

Inevitably, there has been a slowing of the issue of circulars by brokers during the festive season. But those that have appeared have taken a mildly optimistic view.

Public Trustee

The Public Trustee has announced that it will be taking over the management of the assets of the late Sir John Gielgud.

Insurance Bonds and Funds

Table listing insurance bonds and funds with their respective values and details.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

Table showing unit trust prices and their weekly changes.

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THE LIST OF APPLICATIONS WILL BE OPENED AND CLOSED ON THURSDAY, 2nd JANUARY 1975

3 per cent. TREASURY STOCK, 1977

ISSUE OF £600,000,000 of £84.50 PER CENT.

PAYABLE IN FULL ON APPLICATION. INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 15th MAY AND 15th NOVEMBER. This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1971.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED

Application form for 3 per cent Treasury Stock, 1977. Includes fields for name, address, and signature.

